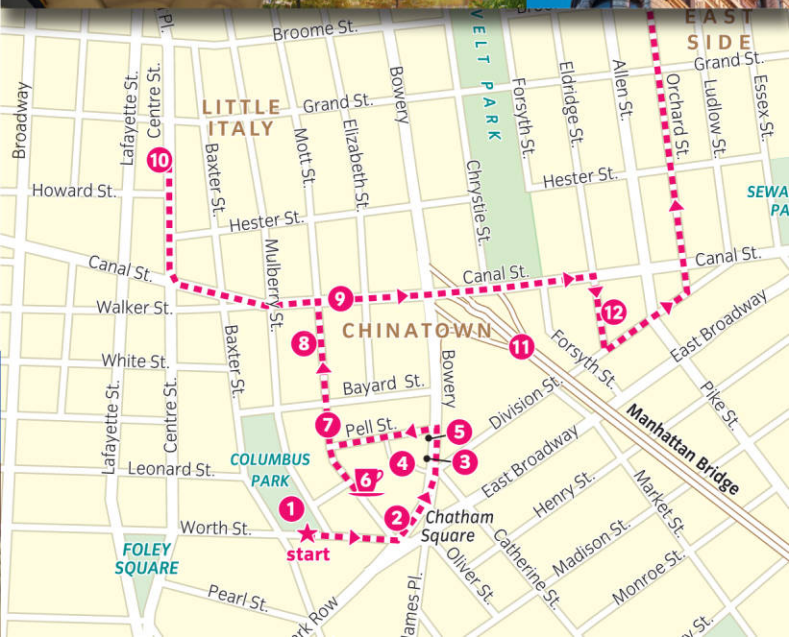
Frommer's

New York City day BY day

22 Smart Ways to See the City



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Frommer's®

New York City day BY day®

3rd Edition

by Alexis Lipsitz Flippin

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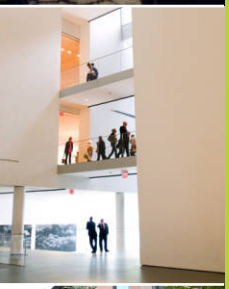

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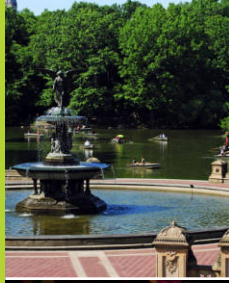

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Letter from the Editorial Director

Organizing your time. That's what this guide is all about.

Other guides give you long lists of things to see and do and then expect you to fit the pieces together. The Day by Day guides are different. These guides tell you the best of everything, and then they show you how to see it *in the smartest, most time-efficient way*. Our authors have designed detailed itineraries organized by time, neighborhood, or special interest. And each tour comes with a bulleted map that takes you from stop to stop.

Hoping to explore the treasures at the Metropolitan Museum of Art or find trinkets in Chinatown? Planning a walk through Greenwich Village or Harlem, or just a whirlwind tour of the best that Manhattan has to offer? Whatever your interest or schedule, the Day by Days give you the smartest routes to follow. Not only do we take you to the top attractions, hotels, and restaurants, but we also help you access those special moments that locals get to experience—those "finds" that turn tourists into travelers.

The Day by Days are also your top choice if you're looking for one complete guide for all your travel needs. The best hotels and restaurants for every budget, the greatest shopping values, the wildest nightlife—it's all here.

Why should you trust our judgment? Because our authors personally visit each place they write about. They're an independent lot who say what they think and would never include places they wouldn't recommend to their best friends. They're also open to suggestions from readers. If you'd like to contact them, please send your comments our way at feedback@frommers.com, and we'll pass them on.

Enjoy your Day by Day guide—the most helpful travel companion you can buy. And have the trip of a lifetime.

Warm regards,

Kelly Regan, Editorial Director
Frommer's Travel Guides

About the Author

Alexis Lipsitz Flippin is a writer and editor who lives in Manhattan's Greenwich Village with her husband, daughter, and springer spaniel. She is the author of *Frommer's New York City with Kids, Frommer's Portable Turks & Caicos*, and *Frommer's Portable St. Maarten/St. Martin, Anguilla & St. Barts.*

Advisory & Disclaimer

Travel information can change quickly and unexpectedly, and we strongly advise you to confirm important details locally before traveling, including information on visas, health and safety, traffic and transport, accommodations, shopping, and eating out. We also encourage you to stay alert while traveling and to remain aware of your surroundings. Avoid civil disturbances, and keep a close eye on cameras, purses, wallets, and other valuables.

While we have endeavored to ensure that the information contained within this guide is accurate and up-to-date at the time of publication, we make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this work and specifically disclaim all warranties, including without limitation warranties of fitness for a particular purpose. We accept no responsibility or liability for any inaccuracy or errors or omissions, or for any inconvenience, loss, damage, costs, or expenses of any nature whatsoever incurred or suffered by anyone as a result of any advice or information contained in this guide.

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Star Ratings, Icons & Abbreviations

Every hotel, restaurant, and attraction listing in this guide has been ranked for quality, value, service, amenities, and special features using a **star-rating system.** Hotels, restaurants, attractions, shopping, and nightlife are rated on a scale of zero stars (recommended) to three stars (exceptional). In addition to the star-rating system, we also use a kids **icon** to point out the best bets for families. Within each tour, we recommend cafes, bars, or restaurants where you can take a break. Each of these stops appears in a shaded box marked with a coffee-cup-shaped bullet .

The following **abbreviations** are used for credit cards:

AE	American Express	DISC	Discover	V	Visa
DC	Diners Club	MC	MasterCard		

Travel Resources at Frommers.com

Frommer's travel resources don't end with this guide. Frommer's website, **www.frommers.com**, has travel information on more than 4,000 destinations. We update features regularly, giving you access to the most current trip-planning information and the best airfare, lodging, and car-rental bargains. You can also listen to podcasts, connect with other Frommers.com members through our active-reader forums, share your travel photos, read blogs from guidebook editors and fellow travelers, and much more.

A Note on Prices

In the "Take a Break" and "Best Bets" sections of this book, we have used a system of dollar signs to show a range of costs for 1 night in a hotel (the price of a double-occupancy room) or the cost of an entree at a restaurant. Use the following table to decipher the dollar signs:

Cost	Hotels	Restaurants
$	under $100	under $10
$$	$100–$200	$10–$20
$$$	$200–$300	$20–$30
$$$$	$300–$400	$30–$40
$$$$$	over $400	over $40

How to Contact Us

In researching this book, we discovered many wonderful places—hotels, restaurants, shops, and more. We're sure you'll find others. Please tell us about them, so we can share the information with your fellow travelers in upcoming editions. If you were disappointed with a recommendation, we'd love to know that, too. Please write to:

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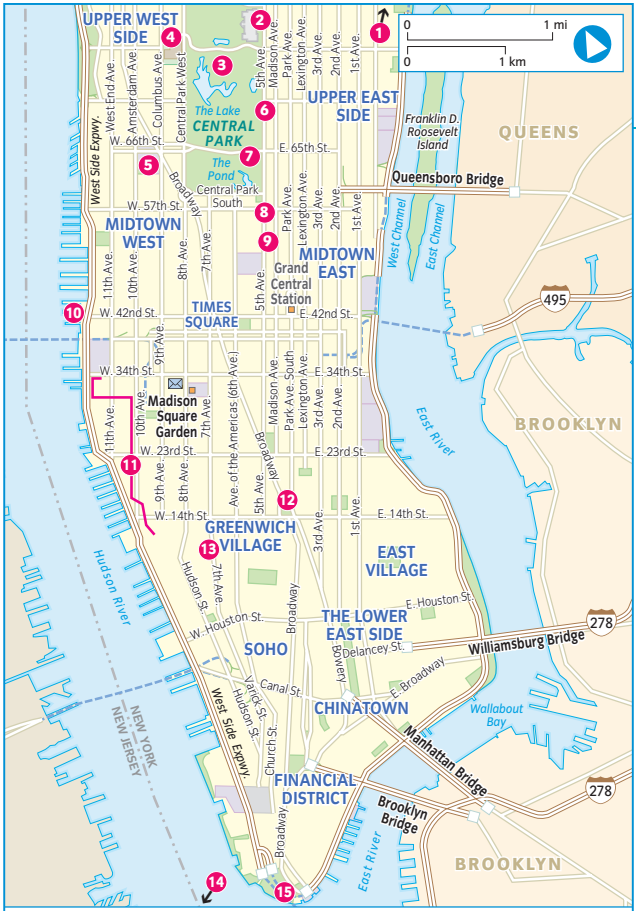
15 Favorite **Moments**

15 Favorite **Moments**



1. Dine in Little Italy in the Bronx
2. Say hello to Rembrandt at the Met
3. Play in Central Park
4. Stare up at the *Barosaurus*
5. Dress up for the opera
6. Feel like a Gilded Age millionaire
7. Visit Gus the polar bear at the Central Park Zoo
8. Window-shop on Fifth Avenue
9. Sip a cocktail at a hotel lounge
10. See Manhattan on a sunset cruise
11. Promenade along the High Line
12. Get a taste of the Greenmarket in Union Square
13. Comb the storied streets of Greenwich Village
14. Relive the immigrant experience at Ellis Island
15. Smell the sea at Battery Park

Previous page: The Manhattan skyline, as seen from Brooklyn and the Brooklyn Bridge.

Visitors often wonder how Manhattan residents put up with the city's crowds and frenetic pace—not to mention the tiny, cramped apartments. But when we're out exploring any of the 15 attractions below, we wouldn't be anywhere else. Every New Yorker has a list of favorite places to visit and things to see. Here's ours.

1 Dine in Little Italy in the Bronx. Stroll down Arthur Avenue or Belmont Avenue and window-shop the bakeries, cheese shops, and meat purveyors. Then order a big red-sauce-laden meal in one of the neighborhood's old-fashioned Italian restaurants. Our pick? The legendary Dominick's. *See p 117.*

2 Say hello to Rembrandt at the Met. A self-portrait of the Dutch painter is one of thousands of masterpieces on view at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the city's premier museum and one of the world's best. It's open until 9pm on Friday and Saturday nights, so soak up a little art and sip an evening cocktail at the elegant Great Hall Balcony Bar, or on the Roof Garden if it's warm out. *See p 46.*

3 Play in Central Park. Manhattan's backyard is loved for its endless variety: undulating paths and greenswards, formal gardens, boat ponds, a castle, a puppet theater, an Egyptian obelisk, a lake, and even a storied carousel. *See p 104.*

4 Stare up at the *Barosaurus*. Yes, the largest free-standing mounted dinosaur in the world is impressive, but the American Museum of Natural History offers more than just giant reptile fossils. The adjacent Rose Center/Hayden Planetarium is spectacular during the day—and pure magic at night. *See p 12.*

5 Dress up for the opera. Even on casual Fridays New Yorkers like to get gussied up to see Metropolitan Opera productions at Lincoln Center. (The sets alone are reason to visit.) Opera not your bag? Simply cross the renovated plaza to see world-class performances in ballet, the symphony, and theater. *See p 146.*

6 Feel like a Gilded Age millionaire. Take a walk in a robber baron's slippers and see priceless art in the bargain at steel magnate Henry Frick's Fifth Avenue mansion. The warm, elegant rooms are hung with choice works by Rembrandt, El Greco, Gainsborough, and other masters. *See p 25.*

7 Visit Gus the polar bear at the Central Park Zoo. This small-scale zoo is perfect for kids and adults in need of a relaxing

The Gramercy Hotel's Jade Bar.

break from big-city prowling. The animals at play include polar bears, penguins, monkeys, and a shy snow leopard. *See p 107.*

8 Window-shop on Fifth Avenue. Legendary stores such as Saks, Bergdorf Goodman, Tiffany & Co., Cartier, and Harry Winston rub shoulders with va-va-va-voom upstarts such as Gucci, Cavalli, and Versace—with each vying equally hard for attention, it's hard to choose. *See p 9.*

9 Sip a cocktail at a hotel lounge. Choose an old standard such as Bemelman's Bar in the Carlyle or the King Cole Lounge in the St. Regis. Or sample a classic in the making, such as the Gramercy Hotel's Rose Bar or Jade Bar, and you'll see why the biggest star of *Sex and the City* is New York. *See p 130.*

10 See Manhattan on a sunset cruise. The city that never sleeps begins to glitter at dusk, when millions of lights set it aglow.

New York, and the Empire State Building, at dusk.

Take a sunset cruise on the mighty Hudson for wraparound views of the city skyline and its splendid evening sparkle. *See p 23.*

11 Promenade along the High Line. The High Line has become one of the city's must-sees. The reinvention of an elevated freight-train track into a series of innovative outdoor habitats is inspired. Your meditative *passeggiata* above the urban din includes sweeping Hudson River vistas. *See p 68.*

12 Get a taste of the Greenmarket in Union Square. Country comes to city 4 days a week year-round at New York's largest farmer's market. The excellent fresh produce, flowers, meats, and other artisanal food are grown by small farmers on Long Island and in New Jersey. Open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. *See p 98.*

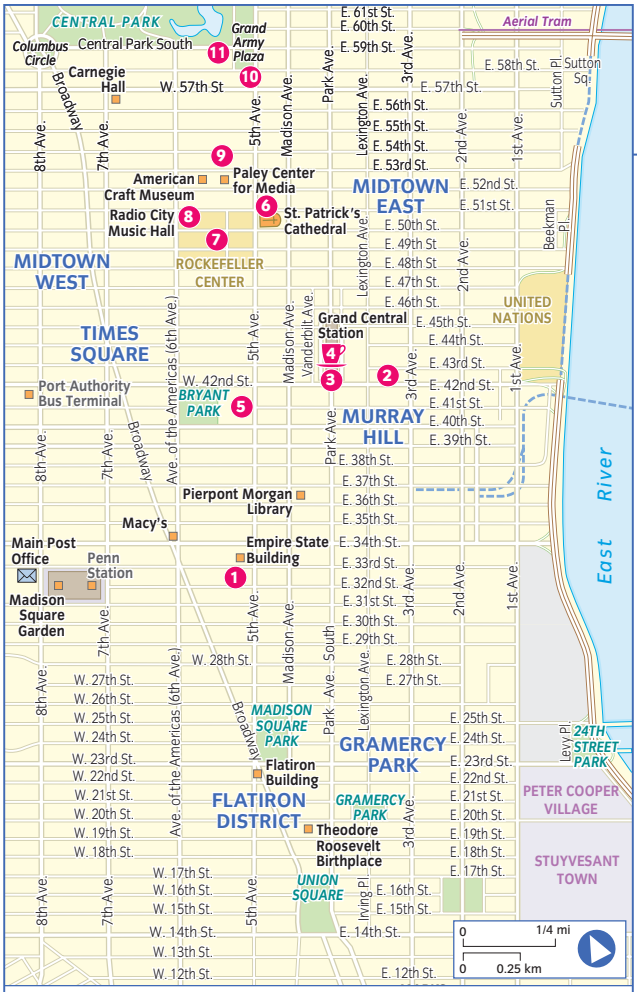
13 Comb the storied streets of Greenwich Village. This historic, human-scale neighborhood affords serendipitous charms around every corner—from vintage brownstones to fabled watering holes. Many famous writers, artists, and poets of yesteryear called this former hamlet home. *See p 76.*

14 Relive the immigrant experience at Ellis Island. Whether or not your family entered America through Ellis Island, a visit here is extremely moving. The on-site museum does an excellent job of bringing the immigrant experience to life. *See p 18.*

15 Smell the sea at Battery Park. This is where Manhattan was born. Start at the yacht basin at the World Financial Center and head south. When you reach the southern tip of Manhattan, you get a magnificent view of the mouth of the mighty New York Harbor with ships chugging into view. *See p 17.*

1 The Best **Full-Day Tours**

The Best in One Day



1. Empire State Building
2. Chrysler Building
3. Grand Central Terminal
4. Grand Central Food Court
5. New York Public Library
6. St. Patrick's Cathedral
7. Rockefeller Center
8. Radio City Music Hall
9. Museum of Modern Art
10. Fifth Avenue
11. The Plaza

Previous page: The Sky Ceiling *at Grand Central Station.*

The most wonderful—and maddening—thing about New York? The endless number of choices. Start your urban exploration in midtown, the city's business and commercial heart. Yes, the shopping opportunities here are legion, and the air space is dotted with corporate skyscrapers—but midtown is also home to several quintessential New York landmarks. **START: Subway 6 to 33rd Street or B, D, F, or M to 34th Street.**

1 ★★ Empire State Building. King Kong climbed it in 1933. A plane slammed into it in 1945. After September 11, 2001, the Empire State regained its status as New York City's tallest building. Through it all, it has remained one of the city's favorite landmarks. Completed in 1931, the limestone and stainless steel Art Deco dazzler climbs 103 stories (1,454 ft./436m). The best views are from the 86th- and 102nd-floor observatories, but we prefer the former, from which you can walk onto an outer windswept deck. From here the citywide panorama is electric. Lines can be long on weekends. 🕘 *2 hr. 350 Fifth Ave. (at 34th St.).* ☎ *212/736-3100. www.esbnyc.com. Observatory admission (86th floor) $20 adults, $18 seniors & children 12–17, $14 children 6–11, free for children 5 and under. ESB Express pass: $45. 102nd floor observatory: $15 extra. Observatories open daily 8am–2am; last elevator goes up at 1:15am. Subway: 6 to 33rd St.; B/D/F/M to 34th St.*

2 ★★★ Chrysler Building. Built as the Chrysler Corporation headquarters in 1930, this is New York's most romantic Art Deco masterpiece and, for many New Yorkers, its most endearing visual touchstone. It's especially dramatic at night, when the triangular points in its steely crown glitter and sparkle. The marble-clad lobby is a hymn to Art Deco; a mural on the ceiling was actually rediscovered in 1999. *See p 39.*

3 ★★ Grand Central Terminal. Another Beaux Arts beauty. The highlight is the vast, imposing main concourse, where high windows allow sunlight to pour onto the half-acre (.25-hectare) Tennessee-marble floor. Everything gleams, from the brass clock over the central kiosk to the gold- and nickel-plated chandeliers piercing the side archways. The breathtaking ***Sky Ceiling*** depicts the constellations of the winter sky above New York. *42nd St. & Park Ave.* ☎ *212/340-2210. www.grandcentralterminal.com. Subway: 4/5/6/7/S to 42nd St.*

Gargoyles perched high on the Chrysler Building.

4 ★ **Grand Central Food Court.** We're at Grand Central already, so head down to the lower-level food court. From hearty Mexican **(Zócalo)** to top-notch soup **(Hale & Hearty),** Indian **(Spice),** pizza **(Two Boots),** and, of course, seafood at the famous **Oyster Bar,** the choices are delicious and fast, and the seating plentiful. *$–$$.*

5 ★ **New York Public Library.** The lions *Patience* and *Fortitude* stand guard outside the grand Fifth Avenue entrance of the **Main Branch (Stephen A. Schwarzman Building)** of the public library, designed by Carrère & Hastings in 1911. It's one of the country's finest examples of Beaux Arts architecture. Sadly, architect John Mervin Carrère never got to enjoy the fruits of his labor; he was killed in a taxi accident 2 months before the library dedication. The majestic white-marble structure is filled with Corinthian columns and allegorical statues. The real Winnie the Pooh stuffed bear is on display in the library's Children's Center. *1 hr. Fifth Ave. (btw. 42nd & 40th sts.). 917/275-6975. www.nypl.org. Free admission. Open Mon & Thurs–Sat 10am–6pm; Tues–Wed 10am–8pm, Sun 1–5pm. Subway: B/D/F/M to 42nd St.*

6 ★★ **St. Patrick's Cathedral.** This Gothic white-marble-and-stone wonder is the largest Roman Catholic cathedral in the U.S. Designed by James Renwick, begun in 1859, and consecrated in 1879, St. Patrick's wasn't completed until 1906. You can pop in between services to get a look at the impressive interior. The St. Michael and St. Louis altar came from Tiffany & Co., while the St. Elizabeth altar—honoring Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born saint—was designed by Paolo Medici of Rome. *15 min. Fifth Ave. (btw. 50th & 51st sts.). 212/753-2261. www.saintpatrickscathedral.org. Free admission. Daily 6:30am–8:45pm. Subway: B/D/F/M to 47th–50th sts./Rockefeller Center.*

7 ★★★ **Rockefeller Center.** A prime example of civic optimism expressed in soaring architecture, Rock Center was built in the 1930s. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1988, it's now the world's largest privately owned business-and-entertainment center, with 18 buildings on 21 acres. The **GE Building,** also known as **30 Rock,** at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, is a 70-story showpiece; walk through the granite-and-marble lobby lined with handsome murals by Spanish painter José Maria Sert (1874–1945). The mammoth Rockefeller Christmas tree is placed in the plaza fronting 30 Rock, overlooking the famous skating rink. *Bounded by 48th & 51th sts. & Fifth & Sixth aves. Subway: B/D/F/M to 47th–50th sts./Rockefeller Center.*

8 ★★★ **Radio City Music Hall.** Designed by Donald Deskey and opened in 1932, this sumptuous Art Deco classic is the world's largest indoor theater, with 6,000 seats. Long known for its Rockettes revues

Marble lions guard the New York Public Library.

The Palm Court at the Plaza.

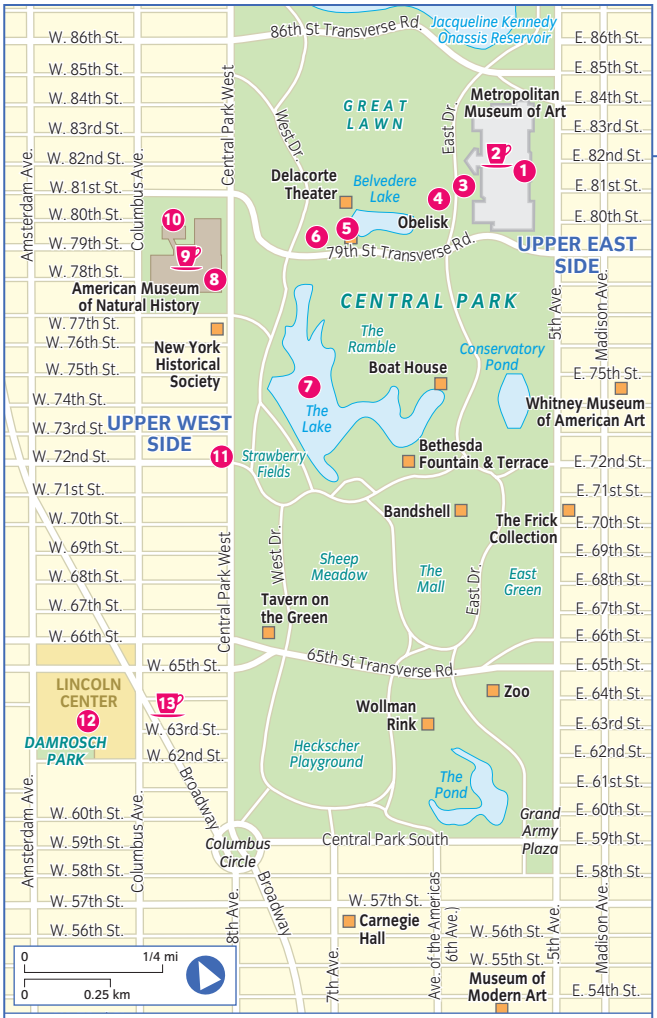
and popular Christmas show, Radio City also has a stellar history as a venue for movie premieres. (More than 700 films have opened here since 1933.) The Deco "powder rooms" are some of the swankiest in town. ***1260 Sixth Ave. (at 50th St.). ☎ 212/247-4777. www.radiocity.com. 1-hr. Stage Door Tour daily 11am–3pm (extended hours Nov 15–Dec 30). Tickets $23 adults, $18 seniors, $16 children 12 & under. Subway: B/D/F/M to 47th–50th sts./Rockefeller Center.***

9 ★★★ Museum of Modern Art. MoMA houses the world's greatest collection of painting and sculpture from the late 19th century to the present—from Monet's *Water Lilies* and Klimt's *The Kiss* to 20th-century masterworks by Frida Kahlo and Jasper Johns to contemporary pieces by Richard Serra and Chuck Close. Add to that a vast collection of modern drawings, photos, architectural models and modern furniture, iconic design objects ranging from tableware to sports cars, and film and video. ***3 hr.*** ***See p 56.***

10 ★★ Fifth Avenue. New York's most famous shopping artery starts at the southeast corner of Central Park at 59th Street. Some landmarks to note: **FAO Schwarz,** at no. 767 (58th St.), the city's top toy emporium; **Tiffany & Co.,** at no. 727 (btw. 56th & 57th sts.), with its stainless-steel doors and Atlas clock; gilded **Trump Tower,** at no. 725 (56th St.), with a seven-story waterfall; **Henri Bendel,** at no. 712 (btw. 55th & 56th sts.), a whimsical department store with vintage Lalique art-glass windows; and at 754 (at 57th St.) **Bergdorf Goodman.** ***Subway: N/R/W to Fifth Ave./59th St.***

11 ★ The Plaza. There's no denying the glamour of the Big Apple's most famous hotel (which is divided between hotel rooms and private condos, with restaurants and shops on the ground floor). This 1907 landmark French Renaissance palace has hosted royalty, celebrities, and a legion of honeymooners. Have afternoon tea in the legendary **Palm Court** or sip a cup of coffee in the **Champagne Bar.** ***768 Fifth Ave. (at Central Park South). ☎ 888/850-0909. www.fairmont.com/theplaza. Subway: N/R/W to Fifth Ave./59th St.***

The Best in Two Days



1. Metropolitan Museum of Art
2. The Met
3. Central Park
4. The Obelisk
5. Belvedere Castle
6. Shakespeare Garden
7. The Lake
8. American Museum of Natural History
9. AMNH
10. Rose Center for Earth & Space
11. The Dakota
12. Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts
13. Shun Lee West/Shun Lee Cafe

Uptown is Manhattan's artistic soul, the home of the Metropolitan Museum and Lincoln Center. It's also home to Central Park, an urban oasis that recharges body and mind. This part of town has a wealth of museums—most of them along Fifth Avenue. To avoid burnout, don't try to see them all in 1 day. If you have kids in tow, run, don't walk, to the American Museum of Natural History. **START: Subway 4, 5, or 6 to 86th Street.**

1 ★★★ kids Metropolitan Museum of Art. At 177,777 square yards (148,644 sq. m), this is the largest museum in the Western Hemisphere, attracting five million visitors annually. Nearly all the world's cultures through the ages are on display—from Egyptian mummies to ancient Greek statuary to Islamic carvings to Renaissance paintings to 20th-century decorative arts—and masterpieces are the rule. You could go once a week for a lifetime and still find something new on each visit. Everyone should see the **Temple of Dendur,** the jewel of the Egyptian collection. But let personal preference be your guide to the rest. Touchstones include the exceptional Rembrandts, Vermeers, and other Dutch master painters. The transplanted period rooms—from the elegant 18th-century bedroom from a Venetian castle to the warm and inviting 20th-century Frank Lloyd Wright living room—are equally unmissable. 🕘 *3 hr. See p 46.*

2 The Met. Eating at the Met gives you options: If you're visiting between May and October, check out the **Roof Garden Café** ($) for breathtaking treetop views of Central Park. Year-round you can grab lunch at the ground-floor **cafeteria** ($), the **American Wing Café** ($$), or at the elegant **Petrie Court Cafe & Wine Bar** ($$), which overlooks Central Park. On Friday and Saturday evenings, cocktails and appetizers are served at the **Great Hall Balcony Bar** ($) overlooking the Great Hall. *The Met, Fifth Ave. (at 82nd St.).* ☎ *212/535-7710. www.metmuseum.org.*

The Temple of Dendur at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

3 ★★★ kids **Central Park.** Manhattanites may lack yards, but they do have this glorious swath of green. Designed by Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux in the 1850s, the park is 2½ miles (4km) long (extending from 59th to 110th sts.) and a half-mile (.8km) wide (from Fifth Ave. to Central Park West). It encompasses a zoo, a carousel, two ice-skating rinks, restaurants, children's playgrounds, even theaters. ***See p 104.***

4 **The Obelisk.** Also called Cleopatra's Needle, this 71-foot (21m) obelisk is reached by following the path leading west behind the Met. Originally erected in Heliopolis, Egypt, around 1475 B.C., it was given to New York by the khedive of Egypt in 1880. Continue on the path to Central Park's **Great Lawn** (p 105), site of countless softball games, concerts, and peaceful political protests.

The T. Rex *at the American Museum of Natural History.*

5 ★ **Belvedere Castle.** Built by Calvert Vaux in 1869, this fanciful medieval-style fortress-in-miniature sits at the highest point in Central Park and affords sweeping views. The many birds that call this area home led to the creation of a bird-watching and educational center in the castle's ranger station. To get here, follow the path across East Drive and walk west.

6 **Shakespeare Garden.** Next to Belvedere Castle, this garden grows only those flowers and plants mentioned in the Bard's plays.

7 ★★ **The Lake.** South of the garden, you'll cross the 79th Street Transverse Road to reach the Lake, with its perimeter pathway lined with weeping willows and Japanese cherry trees. The neo-Victorian Loeb Boathouse (p 106) at the east end of the Lake rents rowboats and bicycles; on summer evenings, you can arrange gondola rides. Walk back up to the 79th Street Transverse Road and follow it west; it exits the park at 81st Street and Central Park West. ***See p 21 and p 106.***

8 ★★★ kids **American Museum of Natural History.** If you can get past the spectacular entrance—a ***Barosaurus,*** the world's largest freestanding dinosaur exhibit—you'll find plenty more to see. Founded in 1869, the AMNH houses the world's greatest natural-science collection in a square-block group of buildings made of whimsical towers and turrets, pink granite, and red brick. The diversity of the holdings is astounding: some 36 million specimens, ranging from microscopic organisms to the world's largest cut gem, the **Brazilian Princess Topaz** (21,005 carats). If you only see one exhibit, make it the ★ **dinosaurs,** which take up the entire fourth floor. ***2 hr. See p 54.***

9 kids **AMNH.** The AMNH has a wide selection of food choices, starting with the **Food Court** ($), which has a kid-friendly selection of pizzas, hot entrees, sandwiches—even sushi rolls. **Café on One** ($) has adult-friendly paninis, salads, and lattés. The **Starlight Café** ($) features wraps, sandwiches, chicken nuggets, hot dogs, and fruit cups or fresh-baked cookies. *American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West (btw. 77th & 81st sts.).* ☎ *212/769-5100. www.amnh.org.*

10 ★★ kids **Rose Center for Earth & Space.** Attached to the American Museum of Natural History, this four-story sphere "floating" in a glass square is astonishing. Even if you're suffering from museum overload, the Rose Center will lift your spirits. The center's **Hayden Planetarium** features spectacular space shows (every half-hour 10:30am–4:30pm Mon–Fri, from 11am Wed; 10:30am–5pm Sat). *See p 55.*

11 **The Dakota.** With its dark trim and dramatic gables, dormers, and oriel windows, this 1884 apartment house is one of the city's most legendary landmarks. Its most famous resident, John Lennon, was gunned down next to the entrance on December 8, 1980; Yoko Ono still lives here. *1 W. 72nd St. (at Central Park West). Subway: 1/2/3/4 to 72nd St.*

12 ★★ **Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.** New York has countless performing arts venues, but none so multifaceted as Lincoln Center—presenting world-class opera, ballet, dramatic theater, jazz, symphonies, and more. After a long day on your feet, relax on the outdoor plaza in front of the fountains.

The dome of the Hayden Planetarium at the Rose Center for Earth & Space.

At Christmas the light displays are lovely, and on summer evenings the plaza becomes an outdoor dance party. *See p 143.*

13 **Shun Lee West/Shun Lee Café.** This "haute Chinese" restaurant is a special place to dine before or after a performance at Lincoln Center. Enjoy expertly prepared Chinese dishes in a theatrically lighted space sheathed in black lacquer. Grand Marnier prawns are rich and decadent; the Heavenly Sea Bass Filet is cooked in a rice wine sauce. Shun Lee's more casual and less expensive cafe counterpart just next door serves dim sum. *43 W. 65th St. (btw. Columbus Ave. & Central Park West).* ☎ *212/769-3888. www.shunleewest.com. $$–$$$.*

The Best in Three Days

1 Blue Spoon Coffee Co.
2 Foley Square
3 City Hall Park
4 9/11 Memorial Preview Site
5 St. Paul's Chapel
6 *Reflecting Absence*
7 Tribute WTC Visitor Center
8 Trinity Church
9 Adrienne's Pizzabar
10 Battery Park
11 The Statue of Liberty
12 Ellis Island Immigration Museum
13 2 WEST & Rise Bar

Explore the city's beginnings, its turbulent recent history, and its dynamic present in Lower Manhattan. You'll find Dutch influences and cobblestoned streets, a center of city government and world finance, the beautiful waterfront Battery Park looking over the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, as well as a neighborhood that still bears the scars of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. (Don't miss the new memorial at the World Trade Center site.) ***Note:*** We recommend you start this tour early and book both the memorial and Lady Liberty in advance. For more details on southern Manhattan, see p 61. **START: Subway 4, 5, or 6 to Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall.**

1 **Blue Spoon Coffee Co.** Kick off your day with a pick-me-up at this favorite of City Hall workers. They serve Intelligentsia brand coffee and tea, H&H bagels, Balthazar breads, plus panini, muffins, and more. ***76 Chambers St. (btw. Broadway & Church). ☎ 212/619-7230. http://bluespooncoffee.com. $.***

2 ★ **Foley Square.** It's hard to believe that this dignified urban landscape was once a fetid swamp and, in the 19th century, one of the city's most notorious slums, Five Points. Today, with its ring of colonnaded courthouse buildings, Foley Square bustles with judiciary industry. It's also one of the most filmed places in the five boroughs. The long-running (though now-cancelled) TV series ***Law & Order*** and its still-running spinoffs beat a path up and down the courthouse steps. The exterior of the 1913 **NY State Supreme Court Building** (60 Centre St.) is where Kris Kringle goes on trial in *Miracle on 34th Street* (the original). The imposing 1932 **Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse** (40 Centre St.) was designed by Cass Gilbert. ***Bounded by Centre, Worth & Lafayette sts. Subway: 4/5/6 to Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall.***

3 **City Hall Park.** City Hall has been the seat of NYC government since 1812. Security concerns prevent visitors from touring inside, but you can get close enough to appreciate the handsome French Renaissance exterior, built from 1803 to 1811. Abraham Lincoln was laid in state in the soaring rotunda. Equally grand is the colossal **Municipal Building** (1 Centre St. at Chambers St.), built on the other side of Centre Street in 1915 by McKim, Mead & White; it was the celebrated firm's first "skyscraper." Across Broadway at no. 233 is that temple of commerce known as the ★ **Woolworth Building.** Built from the proceeds of a nickel-and-dime empire in 1913, this neo-Gothic masterpiece is the work of Cass Gilbert. At press time, the public was not allowed inside the building. ***City Hall Park (btw. Broadway & Park Row).***

4 ★★ **9/11 Memorial Preview Site.** The Twin Towers dominated the city's skyline after their construction in 1973, and visitors from around the world have made pilgrimages to this site since their destruction during the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. After a decade of development, you can finally visit the footprints of the towers, now a permanent memorial,

Construction on One World Trade Center.

Reflecting Absence (see below). But first you'll need tickets for *Reflecting Absence,* which you can get here at this preview site and minimuseum. (The official National September 11 Memorial & Museum opens Sept 2012.) ***30 min. 20 Vesey St. 212/267-2047. www.911memorial.org. Mon–Sat 10am–7pm; Sun 10am–6pm. Subway A/C to World Trade Center; N/R to Cortland St.***

5 ★★ St. Paul's Chapel. If there's a wait for tickets to *Reflecting Absence* at the preview site, this is a good time to stop into nearby St. Paul's, Manhattan's only surviving pre-Revolutionary church from 1766. Built to resemble London's St. Martin-in-the-Fields, with a light, elegant Georgian interior, the chapel was a refuge for rescue workers after September 11. It is at St. Paul's that the story of 9/11 is most vividly on display, with artifacts, impromptu altars, and donations from around the world. The pastoral churchyard in back is filled with 18th- and 19th-century tombstones. ***25 min. 209 Broadway (at Fulton St.). 212/233-4164. www.saintpaulschapel.org. Mon–Fri 10am–6pm; Sat 10am–4pm; Sun 7am–3pm. Subway: 2/3 to Park Place; 1/9/4/5/A to Fulton St./Broadway/Nassau.***

6 ★★★ *Reflecting Absence.* This permanent memorial was designed by Michael Arad and Peter Walker and converts the footprints of the Twin Towers into large reflective pools, incorporating the largest manmade waterfalls in North America. A directory of names of 9/11 victims (inscribed around the pools) is available at **www.911memorial.org** or through the site's free "Explore 9/11" iPhone app. Once at the memorial, you'll be surrounded by the bustling construction of Daniel Libeskind's 1,776-foot-tall (533m) **Freedom Tower** and the site's four other new buildings. A winglike steel and glass canopy, designed by Catalan architect Santiago Calatrava, will shelter the nearby World Trade Center transportation hub and PATH station. Construction work is ongoing and is expected to last till 2014. ***90 min. ww.911memorial.org. Daily, hours subject to change. Subway: A/C to World Trade Center; N/R to Cortland St.***

7 Tribute WTC Visitor Center. This center at the WTC site's south border was created by the nonprofit September 11th Families' Association. It offers daily walking tours ($10), led by people whose lives were affected by the disaster. ***90***

Liberty St. ☎ 212/393-9160. www.tributewtc.org. Subway: A/C to World Trade Center; N/R to Cortland St.

8 ★★ **Trinity Church.** This lovely neo-Gothic marvel was consecrated in 1846 and is still active today. The main doors, modeled on the doors in Florence's Baptistery, are decorated with biblical scenes; inside are splendid stained-glass windows. Among those buried in the pretty churchyard are Alexander Hamilton and Robert Fulton. 🕘 *25 min. Broadway (at Wall St.). ☎ 212/602-0800. www.trinitywallstreet.org. Mon–Fri 7am–6pm; Sat 8am–4pm; Sun 7am–4pm. Subway: 4/5 to Wall St.*

9 ★ **Adrienne's Pizzabar.** The narrow historic Stone Street (p 37) is lined with cafes, taverns, and restaurants. In summer the street is closed to traffic and tables are set out on the cobblestones. You might try Adrienne's, which serves thin-crust square pizza. *54 Stone St. (btw. William & Pearl sts.). ☎ 212/248-3838. $–$$.*

10 ★★ **Battery Park.** Stroll the landscaped park and riverside walkway for sweeping views of New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty, and the Verrazano Bridge. It's a breezy, scenic spot to appreciate the scope of the mighty harbor—the engine behind the city's monumental growth ever since Henry Hudson and his wooden sailing ship rode the blue swells to shore. The park's centerpiece is the damaged 22-ton bronze sphere that once stood in the World Trade Center plaza. *From State St. to New York Harbor. ☎ 212/344-3496. www.thebattery.org. Free admission. Subway: 4/5 to Bowling Green; 1/9 to South Ferry.*

11 ★ kids **The Statue of Liberty.** For the millions who arrived in New York by ship, Lady Liberty was their first glimpse of America. A gift from France to the United States, the statue was designed by sculptor Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi and unveiled on October 28, 1886. ***Note:*** Save yourself a potentially 3-hour wait and buy and print tickets ahead of time. Tickets sell out daily by noon. Also note that interior access to the Statue of Liberty will be restricted for security upgrades until late 2012; you can still visit Liberty Island, but the base and pedestal will be closed, and the crown and torch are permanently off-limits. Visitors can explore the Statue of Liberty Museum, peer into the inner structure through a glass ceiling near the base of the statue, and

Trinity Church's cemetery, where founding father Alexander Hamilton is buried.

enjoy views from the observation deck instead. ***Tip:*** The Staten Island Ferry (www.siferry.com), a free 25-minute trip—not to be confused with the official Statue Cruises, which dock at Liberty and Ellis islands—provides spectacular skyline views of Manhattan and is a wonderful way to see the harbor. You'll pass by (though not stop at) Lady Liberty and Ellis Island. 🕘 ***1 hr. (Statue Cruise ferry: 15 min.). On Liberty Island in New York Harbor.*** ☎ ***212/363-3200 (general info) or 877/523-9849 (tickets). www.nps.gov/stli or www.statuecruises.com. Ticket to Liberty & Ellis islands $12 adults, $10 seniors, $5 children 4–12. Daily 9am–4pm (last ferry departs around 3pm); extended hours in summer. Subway: 4/5 to Bowling Green; 1/9 to South Ferry.***

12 ★★★ kids **Ellis Island Immigration Museum.** For 62 years (1892–1954), this was the main point of entry for newcomers to America. Today it's one of New York's most moving attractions—particularly for the 40% of Americans whose ancestors passed through the immigration center here. It skillfully describes coming to America through the eyes of the immigrants. Among the points of interest: the **Wall of Honor,** which commemorates more than 500,000 immigrants and their families; the **American Family Immigration History Center,** where interactive exhibits can help you research your own family history; and the award-winning documentary *Island of Hope, Island of Tears.* 🕘 ***2 hr. (Statue Cruise ferry: 10 min. from Liberty Island).*** ☎ ***212/363-3200. www.nps.gov/elis or www.ellisisland.org. For tickets, see Statue of Liberty, above. Daily 9:30–5pm (extended hours in summer). Subway: 4/5 to Bowling Green; 1/9 to South Ferry.***

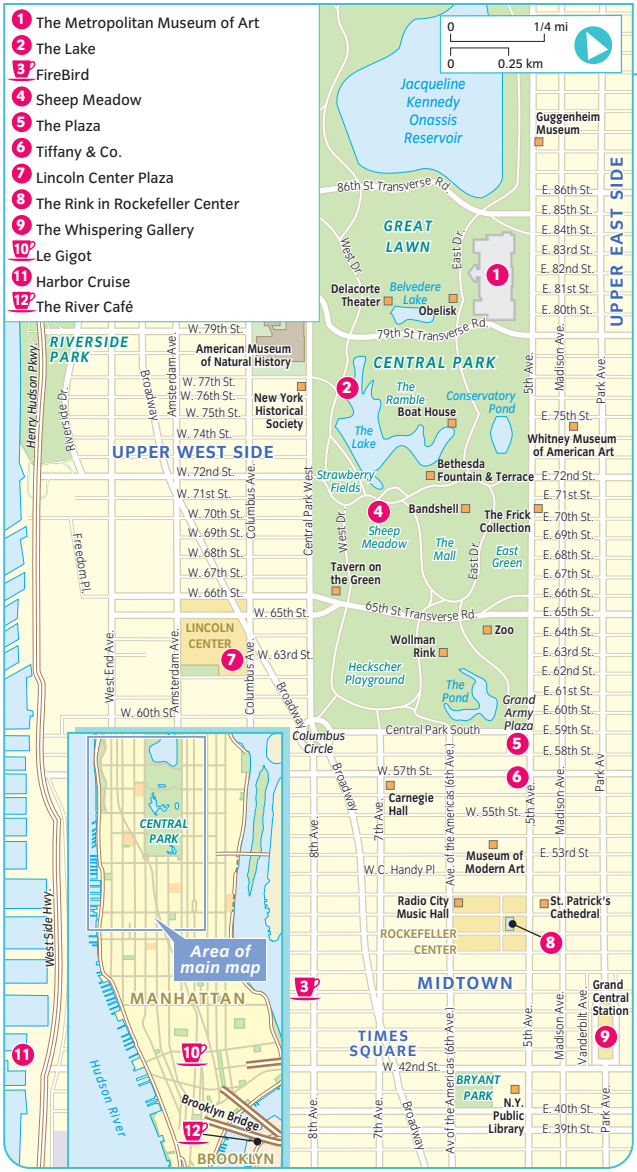
13 ★ **2 WEST & Rise Bar.** Finish your tour with a cocktail and a bite to eat in the warm, elegant 2 WEST restaurant/lounge inside the Ritz-Carlton Battery Park and just across the street from the Museum of Jewish Heritage (p 53). Or spring for the restaurant's popular Sunday brunch buffet ($60). If the weather's nice, the rooftop Rise Bar is a good alternative. ***2 West St.*** ☎ ***212/248-3838. www.ritzcarlton.com. $$$.*** ●

The Statue of Liberty.

2 The Best Special-Interest Tours

Romantic New York

1. The Metropolitan Museum of Art
2. The Lake
3. FireBird
4. Sheep Meadow
5. The Plaza
6. Tiffany & Co.
7. Lincoln Center Plaza
8. The Rink in Rockefeller Center
9. The Whispering Gallery
10. Le Gigot
11. Harbor Cruise
12. The River Café



Previous page: A room in the Stettheimer Doll House.

New York is revered for its high-energy, never-say-die attitude. But to us, the city harbors a romantic streak as wide as the Hudson River. This tour introduces you to places that are best discovered as a twosome. **START: Subway 4, 5, or 6 to 86th Street.**

1 ★★ The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The city's premier museum stays open until 9pm on weekend nights. It's a lovely time to visit—quieter, with fewer visitors. You'll have some rooms almost all to yourself (and the Met security team, of course). You can combine some leisurely gallery hopping with cocktails in the Balcony Bar overlooking the Great Hall. When the weather warms, rendezvous for drinks on the Roof Garden with spectacular views of Central Park and the skyline that surrounds it. To the west, the tip of a real Egyptian obelisk peers above the park tree line. Dating from about 1500 B.C., it was a gift from the Egyptian government in the late 19th century. Its name alone, Cleopatra's Needle, conjures up ageless romance. *See p 47.*

2 ★★ The Lake. Ella Fitzgerald sang "I love the rowing on Central Park Lake" in "The Lady Is a Tramp," and when you see the shimmering waters edged by weeping willows and Japanese cherry trees, you'll understand why it inspired songwriters Rodgers and Hart. The green banks along the manmade lake slope gently toward the water and make for an ideal picnic spot. You can rent a rowboat for two at the neo-Victorian Loeb Boathouse at the east end of the lake. The boathouse also has a restaurant and a seasonal outside bar with terrace seating overlooking the lake. It's a thoroughly pleasant place to enjoy a cool summer cocktail. ***Midpark from 71st to 78th sts.***

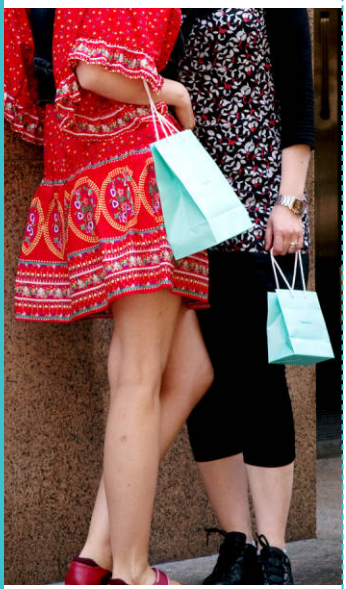
3 ★ FireBird. New York's high temples of romance have thinned considerably now that Café des Artistes and the Rainbow Room are gone. Or have they? Nah—at least not when the city has places like this jewel box of a Russian restaurant on Times Square's Restaurant Row. FireBird's rich interior is an homage to the opulent decadence of czarist Russia. Head upstairs to the parlor for a cocktail and a sampling of Russian delicacies. You'll feel like royalty inside a gilded Faberge egg. ***365 W. 46th St. (btw. 8th & 9th aves.). ☎ 212/586-0244. www.firebirdrestaurant.com. $$$–$$$$.***

The elegant entrance to FireBird.

4 Sheep Meadow. Skip the horse-drawn carriage rides, which are pretty pricey (roughly $40 for 20 min.) and kinda brutal on the horses, especially in the heat or cold. Head to the Sheep Meadow instead, a large, green swathe in lower Central Park that actually was once a grazing ground for sheep. It's got stupendous views of the Central Park South skyline pillowed in trees, perfect for a picnic.

5 ★★ The Plaza. This historic confection has played a part in countless romances. Newlyweds Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald famously frolicked in the fountain out front. And who can forget the final, poignant scene in *The Way We Were,* when Barbra Streisand and Robert Redford say goodbye in front of the Plaza? The scene was lovingly re-created on TV's *Sex and the City.* Toast to bittersweet romance in the vintage Oak Bar. ***768 Fifth Ave. (at 59th St.). ☎ 212/759-3000. www.theplaza.com. Subway: N/R/W to Fifth Ave. & 59th St.***

Tiffany & Co.'s iconic blue bags.



6 ★★ Tiffany & Co. "A kiss may be grand, but it won't pay the rental"—as the folks at Tiffany well know. Seal the deal with a diamond ring from this classic jeweler. ***727 Fifth Ave. (btw. 56th & 57th sts.). ☎ 212/755-8000. Subway: E/M to Fifth Ave./53rd St.***

7 Lincoln Center Plaza. On a warm summer night, grab your partner and dance with romantic abandon during "Midsummer Night Swing," the sexy dance party on Josie Robertson Plaza. Every night is a different dance theme, from salsa to swing to ballroom. The fountains and floodlights of the plaza are particularly seductive at dusk. Go to **www.lincolncenter.org** for the latest information.

8 ★★ The Rink in Rockefeller Center. A romantic winter rendezvous on the ice-skating rink in the center's Lower Plaza is clichéd, but just try to resist a swirl around the ice during the holidays, with the spectacular Rock Center Christmas tree glittering from above. Avoid crowds by going early or late. Don't skate? Have a drink in the Sea Grill—which directly faces the rink—and watch the action. ***Lower Plaza, Rockefeller Center (btw. 49th & 50th sts). ☎ 212/332-7654. Admission $10–$17 adults, $7.50–$12 seniors and children 10 and under. Mid-Oct to mid-Apr; call for hours. See p 8.***

9 The Whispering Gallery. Not only is the tiled Gustavino ceiling outside the Grand Central Oyster Bar a beauty, but it creates an acoustical phenomenon. Stand facing one of the pillars with your loved one facing the one directly opposite and whisper sweet nothings. You'll

The River Café.

be able to hear one another—and no one else can listen in. ***Grand Central Station, 42nd St. & Park Ave. ☎ 212/340-2210. www.grandcentralterminal.com. Subway: 4/5/6 to 42nd St./Grand Central.***

10 ★ **Le Gigot.** In these challenging times, sometimes the best recipe for romance is a warm, intimate spot where candles flicker seductively. At this classic little Provençal boîte in the West Village, you can dine on bouillabaisse or a hearty cassoulet. Look around; you're not the only ones on a romantic rendezvous. ***18 Cornelia St. (btw. Bleecker & West 4th sts.). ☎ 212/627-3737. www.legigotrestaurant.com. $$$.***

11 ★★ **Harbor Cruise.** Whether you're on a simple spin around the island or an elegant dinner cruise, seeing Manhattan from the water is a thrill. That old reliable, **Circle Line** (www.circleline42.com), has the most options, from 2-hour harbor cruises to summer live-music cruises. Circle Line leaves from Pier 83 (W. 42nd St.). **Bateaux New York** (www.bateauxnewyork.com) runs dinner cruises in sleek glass boats to the accompaniment of live jazz. It leaves from Pier 61 at Chelsea Piers (W. 23rd St.).

12 ★ **The River Café.** The River Café sits on the Brooklyn waterfront practically underneath the Brooklyn Bridge, with magnificent views of downtown Manhattan. Even if you don't come for dinner, you can sit on the terrace, sip a cocktail, and drink in the views. ***1 Water St., Brooklyn. ☎ 718/522-5200. www.rivercafe.com. $$$–$$$$.***

New York Money

1. Trump Tower
2. The Regency
3. The Frick Collection
4. Michael's
5. Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace
6. Forbes Galleries
7. Federal Reserve Bank of New York
8. New York Stock Exchange
9. Museum of American Finance

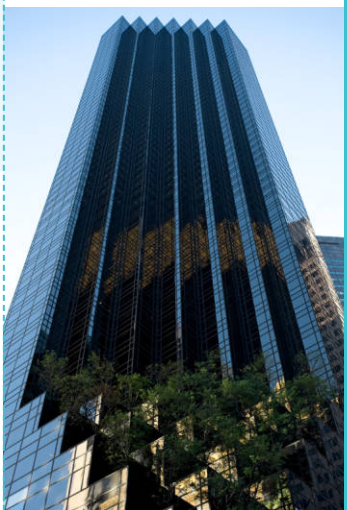
The city has long been a mecca for ambitious types, from financial power brokers to mercenaries—and some things never change. The robber barons of the 19th century, men such as Henry Clay Frick and J. P. Morgan, thrived here. So have their modern-day counterparts, including such titans as residents Donald Trump and Mike Bloomberg. These are the landmarks that define them all. **START: Subway B, F, or V to Fifth Avenue and 57th Street.**

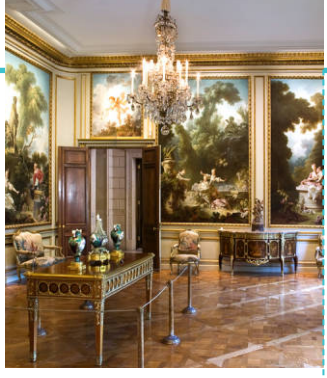
1 Trump Tower. This bold and brassy place is definitely not your average shopping mall. The gold signage on the 1983 building practically screams "Look at me!" Step inside to view the six-story mirrored atrium and the waterfall cascading down a pink-granite wall. Admire the glitzy displays of luxury shops such as Cartier and Asprey of London as you glide up the escalators. *725 Fifth Ave. (btw. 56th & 57th sts.). ☎ 212/832-2000. Subway: B/D/F/M to 57th St.*

2 ★ The Regency. According to local lore, this is where the term "power breakfast" was coined. Come before 8am to see tycoons and politicians table-hopping, backslapping, and making deals aplenty. You may not recognize some of the big players (many prefer to keep a low profile), but famous faces do appear. If you're a fan of Sunday morning "talking head" programs, you'll be in heaven. Guarantee a seat with a reservation. *540 Park Ave. (at 61st St.). ☎ 212/759-4100. www.loewshotels.com. $$–$$$.*

3 ★★★ The Frick Collection. Industrialist Henry Clay Frick, who controlled the steel industry in Pittsburgh at the turn of the 20th century, began collecting art after he made his first million. Architects Carrère & Hastings built this palatial French neoclassical mansion in 1914 to house both Frick's family and his art (Frick chose to live in Manhattan instead of his native Pennsylvania, legend has it, to avoid the soot from the steel mills). This living testament to New York's Gilded Age is graced with paintings from Frick's collection: works by Titian, Gainsborough, Rembrandt, Turner, Vermeer, El Greco, and Goya. A highlight is the Fragonard Room, which contains the sensual rococo series *The Progress of Love.* The house is particularly stunning in its Christmas finery. *2 hr. 1 E. 70th St. (at Fifth Ave.). ☎ 212/288-0700. www.frick.org. Admission $18 adults, $12 seniors, $5 students. Children under 10 not admitted; children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Tues–Sat 10am–6pm; Sun 11–5pm. Closed Mon & all major holidays. Subway: 6 to 68th St. Bus: M1/2/3/4.*

Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue.





The Frick Collection.

4 ★ **Michael's.** The New York media elite lunches at Michael's, a spacious spot in a landmark building—and we're talking everybody, from Barbara Walters to Bill Clinton. You know your place in the pecking order when you are seated in this power palace—even though the fresh flowers, pretty paintings, and sunny California cuisine work to soften the blow. Of course, if you're a media mogul in training, you may be too pressed for time to glad-hand it at Michael's. Grab lunch to go instead from a food cart such as **Daisy May's BBQ** (52nd St. and Park Ave.; www.daisymaysbbq.com; $), which dishes out some of New York's best barbecue. *24 W. 55th St. (btw. Fifth and Sixth aves.).* ☎ *212/767-0555. $$$–$$$$.*

5 ★ **Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace.** America's 26th president was born and raised here (the original house was destroyed in 1916, then faithfully reconstructed in 1923). It was decorated by Roosevelt's wife and sisters with many original furnishings. The reconstructed house contains five period rooms, two museum galleries, and a bookstore. Roosevelt was the nemesis of the robber barons. Known as the "Trust Buster," he broke up monopolies in industries such as railroads and steel to protect the public interest. 🕘 *45 min. 28 E. 20th St. (btw. Broadway & Park Ave. South).* ☎ *212/260-1616. www.nps.gov/thrb. Free admission. Tues–Sat 9am–5pm. Subway: 6 to 23rd St.*

6 ★ kids **Forbes Galleries.** The late magnate Malcolm Forbes was a passionate collector. Toy soldiers (10,000 or so), early edition Monopoly boards, and toy boats (over 500) are the highlights here. (The real stars of the Forbes collection, 12 Fabergé Imperial Eggs, were sold, fittingly, to a Russian tycoon in 2004.) Changing exhibits have included a selection of letters written by first ladies, jeweled flowers and fruit by Cartier, and historically accurate miniature rooms. You can book a free tour in advance. 🕘 *45 min. 62 Fifth Ave. (at 12th St.).*

Inside the Federal Reserve vaults.

The New York Stock Exchange.

☎ 212/206-5548. www.forbesgalleries.com. Free admission; children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Tues–Wed & Fri–Sat 10am–4pm. Subway: 4/5/6 to 14th St.

7 Federal Reserve Bank of New York. This is where they keep the gold—$90 billion of it. It rests 50 feet (15m) below sea level. You can tour the gold vaults and the bank's museum on a free 1-hour tour, but be sure to book at least 1 week in advance. *🕘 1 hr. 33 Liberty St. (btw. William and Nassau sts.). ☎ 212/720-6130. frbnytours@ny.frb.org. www.newyorkfed.org. Subway: 4/5 to Wall St.*

8 New York Stock Exchange. The serious action is here on Wall Street, a narrow lane dating from the 17th century. At its heart is the NYSE, the world's largest securities exchange. The NYSE came into being in 1792, when merchants met daily under a nearby buttonwood tree to trade U.S. bonds that had funded the Revolutionary War. In 1903 traders moved into this Beaux Arts building designed by George Post. The NYSE is still surrounded by heavy security and is not open to the public. *18 Broad St. (btw. Wall St. & Exchange Place). ☎ 212/656-3000. www.nyse.com.*

9 ★ Museum of American Finance. This museum explores the country's free-market traditions and spirit of entrepreneurship. It is housed in a landmark Benjamin Morris–designed building from the late 1920s, with major exhibitions filling the building's grand mezzanine. *🕘 45 min. 48 Wall St. (at William St.). ☎ 212/908-4100. www.financialhistory.org. Admission $8 adults, $5 seniors/students, free kids 6 and under. Tues–Sat 10am–4pm. Subway: 4/5/2/3 to Wall St.*

The Charging Bull, *symbol of Wall Street.*

New York with Kids

1. Bronx Zoo
2. Yankee Stadium
3. Stettheimer Doll House
4. American Museum of Natural History
5. Alice in Wonderland Statue & the Sailboat Pond
6. Serendipity 3
7. The Carousel in Central Park
8. Central Park Zoo
9. Wollman Rink/Victorian Gardens
10. *Intrepid* Sea-Air-Space Museum
11. NewYork Public Library
12. Children's Museum of the Arts
13. Coney Island

Beneath its noise, grit, and air of jaded cynicism, New York City is extremely kid-friendly. It opens its arms to kids of all ages, with some of the top children's attractions in the country, magical kid-centric holidays, and a world of treats for the eyes, ears, and tummy. What kid can resist? Just be sure to budget 3 to 4 days if you want to fit in everything on this tour. START: **Subway 2 or 5 to East Tremont Avenue/West Farms Square.**

1 ★★★ kids Bronx Zoo. The largest urban wildlife conservation facility in America, the Bronx Zoo has some 4,000 animals roaming 265 acres (106 hectares). It's hard to believe that you're actually in the Bronx as you watch lions, zebras, and gazelles roam the African Plains, a re-created savanna. Don't miss Tiger Mountain, featuring Siberian tigers, or the Congo Gorilla Forest, where 23 lowland gorillas, assorted monkeys, and other species live in a 6½-acre (2.6-hectare) African rainforest environment. *4–5 hr. Fordham Rd. & Bronx River Pkwy. 718/652-8400. www.bronxzoo.com. Mon–Fri 10am–4:30pm, Sat–Sun 10am–5:30pm (extended summer & holiday hours). Admission $16 adults, $14 seniors, $12 children 3–12, kids 2 and under free. Subway: 2/5 to E. Tremont Ave./West Farms Sq.*

2 ★★★ kids Yankee Stadium. Is there a better way to spend a sun-dappled summer afternoon than at a baseball game at Yankee Stadium? You can take a subway right to the stadium or—even better—a NY Waterway ferry from several departure points (www.nywaterway.com). *4 hr. 1 E. 161st St. (Jerome Ave.), the Bronx. 718/293-6000. www.yankees.com. Tickets $15–$65. Subway: B/D/4 to 161st St.*

3 ★★★ kids Stettheimer Doll House. This remarkable dollhouse in the Museum of the City of New York was the creation of Carrie Walter Stettheimer, a theater set designer who, with her two equally talented sisters, entertained the city's avant-garde artist community in the 1920s. Among the exquisite furnishings are period wallpaper, paper lampshades, and an art gallery featuring original miniatures of famous works such as Marcel Duchamp's *Nude Descending a Staircase.* The museum has more vintage dollhouses and timeless toys on display. *1½ hr. Museum of the City of New York, 1220 Fifth Ave. (103rd St.). 212/534-1672. www.mcny.org. Tues–Sun 10am–5pm. Admission $10 adults, $6 students & seniors, free children 12 and under. Subway: 6 to 103rd St.*

4 ★★★ kids American Museum of Natural History. One word: ★ **dinosaurs,** which devour the entrance hall and take up the entire fourth floor. Not to mention diamonds as big as the Ritz, and much more. *See p 55.*

5 ★★ kids Alice in Wonderland Statue & the Sailboat Pond. This 1959 bronze statue of Alice sitting on a giant mushroom is catnip to the little ones. The Sailboat Pond, officially called Conservatory Water, is an ornamental pond where kids can sail miniature boats or watch radio-powered model yachts compete in racing regattas. *Central Park, east side from 72nd to 75th sts.*

6 kids **Serendipity 3.** The ice-cream sundaes are legendary at this whimsical Upper East Side dessert palace, which also serves kid-friendly burgers, pastas, and chicken pot pie. Try the "Shake, Batter & Bowl": half a chicken, fried and oven-roasted, and french fries. *225 E. 60th St. (btw. Second & Third aves.). ☎ 212/838-3531. www.serendipity3.com. $$.*

7 ★★ kids **The Carousel in Central Park.** A quarter of a million children ride these vintage hand-carved horses every year. *See p 106.*

8 ★★ kids **Central Park Zoo.** The zoo dates from the mid-19th century, when caged animals on loan from circuses were put on display near the Arsenal. The current zoo was built in 1988 to replace a 1934 WPA-built structure. Today the zoo's 5½ acres (2.2 hectares) house more than 400 animals, among them sea lions, polar bears, and penguins. In the small **Tisch Children's Zoo,** kids can feed and pet tame farm animals. Check out the **Delacorte Clock,** with six dancing animals designed by the Italian sculptor Andrea Spadini. *See p 107.*

Skaters on Wollman Rink.

9 ★★ kids **Wollman Rink/Victorian Gardens.** The small ice-skating rink at Rockefeller Center is right in the center of midtown action, but this much bigger rink in Central Park is built for stretching out and perfecting your moves. Plus, it has views of skyscrapers along Central Park South. In the summer it's transformed into the **Victorian Gardens Amusement Park,** which has old-fashioned carnival rides for young children. *See p 107.*

10 ★★ kids ***Intrepid* Sea-Air-Space Museum.** The aircraft carrier known as the "Fighting I" served the U.S. Navy for 31 years, suffering bomb attacks, kamikaze strikes, and a torpedo shot. It's now a very cool sea, air, and space museum on the New York waterfront. You can crawl inside a wooden sub from the American Revolution, inspect a nuclear submarine, or manipulate the controls in the cockpit of an A-6 Intruder. ***Note:*** Summers are crowded; get here early or buy tickets online. *🕘 1½ hr. Pier 86, 12th Ave. & 46th St. ☎ 212/245-0072. http://intrepidmuseum.org. Admission $22 adults, $18 students & seniors, $17 children 3–17, free children 2 and under. Apr–Sept Mon–Fri 10am–5pm, Sat–Sun 10am–6pm; Oct–Mar Tues–Sun 10am–5pm. Bus: M42 to 12th St. & Hudson Ave.; Subway: 1/2/3/7/9/A/C/E/S to 42th St./Times Sq.*

11 ★★ kids **New York Public Library.** The real Winnie-the-Pooh bear, the little stuffed animal owned and cherished by Christopher Robin Milne, is on display in the main branch's Humanities and Social Sciences Library, along with Eeyore, Piglet, Kanga, and Tigger. *See p 8.*

12 ★★ kids **Children's Museum of the Arts.** More creative play space than stodgy museum, this

Fighter planes on the deck of the Intrepid.

art-themed duplex has a paint-splashed charm. It's a great place for budding artists to express themselves. 🕘 *2 hr. 182 Lafayette St. (btw. Broome & Grand sts.)* ☎ *212/274-0986. www.cmany.org. Admission $10, free children under 1. Wed–Sun noon–5pm (Thurs to 6pm). Subway: 6 to Spring St. or N/R to Prince St.*

13 ★ kids **Coney Island.** This classic summer playground conjures up carny rides, wooden boardwalks, and breezy salt air. It's a long subway ride out, but once you're here you can ride the 1927 **Cyclone** roller coaster or the 1920 **Wonder Wheel** or play at **Luna Park,** the first new amusement park built on Coney Island in 40 years. *1208 Surf Ave., Brooklyn.* ☎ *718/372-5159. www.coneyisland.com. Memorial Day to Labor Day daily noon to late evening; Easter to Memorial Day and Labor Day to end of Oct weekends only noon to late evening. Cyclone: Admission $8. Wonder Wheel: Admission $6. Luna Park: www.lunaparknyc.com. Unlimited-ride wristbands $26–$34. Subway: D/N to Coney Island/Stillwell Ave.; F/Q to W. 8th St.*

Holiday Magic

New York celebrates the holidays with glitter and gusto. On Thanksgiving, the **Macy's Day Parade** rolls through town; find yourself a perch along the parade route or, if you're smart, a hotel room with a view of the festivities. Join the locals the night before for what's become a street party around the Museum of Natural History to watch the inflating of the giant parade balloons. At Christmastime, head for the ever-popular holiday revue at Radio City Music Hall, the **Christmas Spectacular** (☎ 212/307-1000; www.radiocity.com; tickets $45–$250). In the Bronx, the New York Botanical Gardens is the site for the wonderful **Holiday Train Show,** where vintage model trains zip around miniature reproductions of well-known New York landmarks—all made *entirely out of plant materials* (☎ 718/817-8700; www.nybg.org; $20 adults, $7 children 2–12, free children under 2). Take the 20-minute Metro-North Railroad from Grand Central to the Botanical Gardens stop. Both the Radio City show and the train show run from November through early January.

Literary Gotham

Long a city of writers, New York is a treasure-trove of sites that honor authors, streets named for storytellers, and bookstores full of their works. Here are some of those inspired literary haunts. **START: Subway N, R, or W to Fifth Avenue and 59th Street.**

1 ★★ The Plaza. Eloise lived here, of course; the celebrated children's book heroine won the hotel "Literary Landmark" status in 1998. *Eloise* was written in 1955 by performer Kay Thompson during her stay at the Plaza, and the famous portrait of the mischievous little girl is still displayed in the renovated lobby. *See p 22.*

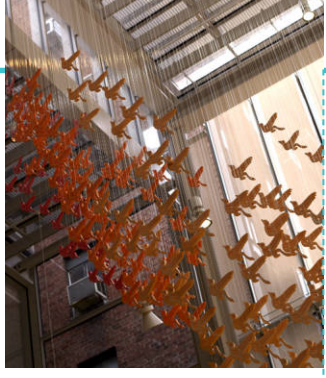
2 ★★ The "21" Club. The joint is all classed up these days, but it started, like many other vaunted watering holes, as a Prohibition speakeasy, opening in 1929 as Jack and Charlie's "21" Club. It wasn't the only game in town—by 1930, West 52nd Street was known as "Swing Street" for its plethora of speakeasies—but the "21" Club pulled in serious writers such as Ernest Hemingway, Lillian Hellman, and Robert Benchley, who famously announced on arrival one rainy evening: "Get me out of this wet coat and into a dry martini." You may not be in the mood for a full meal this early in the day, but stop in to glance at the memorabilia. ***21 West 52nd St. (btw. Fifth & Sixth aves). ☎ 212/582-7200. www.21club.com. $$–$$$.***

3 ★ The Algonquin. In the 1920s, this hotel was where notable literati such as James Thurber and the acid-tongued Dorothy Parker met to drink and trade bons mots at the so-called Round Table. The table still has a place of honor in the Rose Room, but be warned: It's rectangular. The richly appointed lobby is also atmospheric. ***59 W. 44th St. (btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.). ☎ 212/840-6800. www.algonquinhotel.com. Subway: B/D/F/M to 42nd St.***

4 *The New Yorker.* America's most celebrated literary magazine came into being at the Algonquin Round Table, just a block away from its former office space here. Over the decades it has featured writers such as E. B. White, James Thurber, John Cheever, John Updike, and Calvin Trillin, and you'll find their names and others on a plaque. (Today *The New Yorker* offices are in the Condé Nast building at 4 Times Sq.) ***25 W. 43rd St. (btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.). Subway: B/D/F/M to 42nd St.***

5 ★ Library Way. Along 41st Street between Park and Fifth, you'll see bronze plaques embedded in the sidewalk. There are 96 in total, and all feature quotations from literature or poetry. Walking west along this street leads you to the New York Public Library. ***41st St. (btw. Park & Fifth aves.). Subway: B/D/F/M to 42nd St.***

6 ★★ The Morgan Library & Museum. The former private library of financier John Pierpont Morgan contains one of the most important collections of rare books and manuscripts in the world. It was not Morgan himself who bartered with booksellers but his personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, a light-skinned African American who passed herself off as white to gain entree into Pierpont Morgan's world. Morgan gave her carte blanche (money was no object) to buy some of the world's rarest manuscripts, a job she ably carried out for more than 40 years. ***2 hr. 29 E. 36th St. (btw. Park & Madison***



The Living Word *sculpture by Xu Bing in the Morgan Library.*

aves.). ☎ 212/685-0610. www.themorgan.org. Admission $15 adults, $10 seniors, students & children 13–15, free children 12 and under. Tues–Thurs 10:30am–5pm, Fri 10:30am–9pm, Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 11am–6pm. Subway: B/D/F/N/Q/R/M to 34th St.

7 The Hotel Chelsea. As Janis Joplin once said, "A lot of funky things happen at the Chelsea." Billed as "a rest stop for rare individuals," this legendary 12-story brick building maintains a distinct boho flair, from its lobby of abstract expressionist art (by artists who lived here in the 1950s and '60s) to its colorful history as a haven for creative, offbeat, even extremist types. Built in 1884, the Chelsea became a hotel in 1905 where artists and writers were encouraged to stay indefinitely. Among the writers who did: Thomas Wolfe, Dylan Thomas, O. Henry, Arthur Miller, and Sam Shepard (with his then-lover Patti Smith). The hotel is closed to guests for renovations, but artists are still the main residents, and you can stop in the lobby for a look around. ***222 W. 23rd St. (btw. Seventh & Eighth aves.). ☎ 212/243-3700. www.hotelchelsea.com. Subway: 1/9/A/C to 23rd St.***

The artful lobby of the Hotel Chelsea.

8 White Horse Tavern. This 1880 wood-frame bar was where writers such as Jack Kerouac, James Baldwin, Norman Mailer, and the Welsh poet Dylan Thomas threw down a few. Thomas, in fact, more or less drank himself to death here in November 1953 at the tender age of 39. Order a newfangled burger, wash it down with an icy ale, and toast the celebrated ghosts around you. Cash only. ***567 Hudson St. (at 11th St.). ☎ 212/243-9260. $–$$.***

9 Patchin Place. This sweet little cobblestone mews tucked off Sixth Avenue was at one time a serious literary enclave: The poet E. E. Cummings lived at no. 4 from 1923 to 1962, the reclusive writer Djuna Barnes lived at no. 5 for 40 years, and journalist John Reed and his paramour Louise Bryant lived here while he wrote *Ten Days That Shook the World.* (The lefty magazine he wrote for, *The Masses,* was located a couple of blocks away at 91 Greenwich Ave.) ***Patchin Place (off 10th St. & Sixth Ave.). Subway: A/B/C/D/E/F/M to W. 4th St.***

Browsing the Strand.

10 Washington Square. The literary history of New York is filled with references to this fabled downtown neighborhood—and why not? It's where many great writers grew up or chose to live. Novelist Henry James was born at 21 Washington Place in 1843 and later described the neighborhood in his memorable 1880 book *Washington Square* (later made into the heralded play and movie *The Heiress*). Edith Wharton, whose novels evoked the genteel days when the aristocracy ruled New York society from Washington Square, stayed briefly with her mother at 7 Washington Sq. N. Willa Cather lived at both 60 Washington Sq. S. and 82 Washington Place. ***See p 77.***

11 ★ The Strand. You can spend hours browsing the "18 miles" of books crammed into the high, narrow shelves of this 1927 institution/bookstore. ***See p 94.***

12 McSorley's. This working 1854 saloon was immortalized by *New Yorker* writer Joseph Mitchell in "McSorley's Wonderful Saloon," found in his classic collection of true New York tales, *Up in the Old Hotel and Other Stories*. ***15 E. 7th St. (btw. Second & Third aves.). ☎ 212/474-9148. www.mcsorleysnewyork.com. $.***

13 Nuyorican Poets Cafe. What started out more than 30 years ago as the "living room salon" of East Village writer and poet Miguel Algarín has become a celebrated arts enterprise and a forum for up-and-coming poets, writers, playwrights, musicians, and comedians. Weekly poetry "slams" are held Friday nights. ***236 E. 3rd St. (btw. aves. B & C). ☎ 212/505-8183. www.nuyorican.org. Subway: A/B/C/D/E/F/M to W. 4th St.***

McSorley's, an East Village institution.

New York's Greatest Buildings

1. Stone Street Historic District
2. Skyscraper Museum
3. World Trade Center Site
4. Woolworth Building
5. The Bayard-Condict Building
6. The Flatiron Building
7. Wolfgang's Steakhouse
8. Empire State Building
9. New York Public Library
10. Chrysler Building
11. Grand Central Terminal
12. Rockefeller Center
13. Rock Center
14. St. Patrick's Cathedral
15. Museum of Modern Art
16. Lever House
17. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum

Manhattan's muscular steel-and-concrete skyline is many things: a wonderfully eclectic architectural landscape; a visual metaphor for the dynamism of America's largest city, perpetually in flux; and a stunning, three-dimensional historical record of how the Big Apple has grown—and grown up—over the years. This tour takes in a bit of all that, in 2 days. **START: Subway 2 or 3 to Wall Street.**

1 ★ Stone Street Historic District. This narrow curve of a street, first staked out by the Dutch West India Company in the 1640s, is a find. The 15 existing brick structures lying in the shadow of Wall Street's canyons were built soon after the Great Fire of 1835 leveled the heavily commercial neighborhood. The Dutch-style facades trace the winding cobblestone street, now home to cafes and taverns; in the summer the street is closed off to vehicular traffic and the restaurants serve alfresco. ***Bounded by Pearl St., Hanover Sq., S. William St. & Coenties Alley. Subway: 2/3 to Wall St.***

2 ★ Skyscraper Museum. Wowed by New York's sheer verticality? Learn more about the technology, culture, and muscle behind it all at this small museum. Housed in the same building as the Ritz-Carlton Battery Park, it contains two galleries: one dedicated to the evolution of Manhattan's skyline, the other to changing shows. ***1 hr. 2 West St. (museum entrance faces Battery Place). 212/968-1961. www.skyscraper.org. Admission $5 adults, $2.50 seniors & students, free children 11 and under. Wed–Sun noon–6pm. Subway: 1/9 to Rector St; 4/5 to Bowling Green.***

3 ★ World Trade Center Site. The enormity of the tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001, is driven home by the sight of the massive construction site that once held the Twin Towers, set in a concrete "bathtub" that literally kept the Hudson River at bay. ***See p 15.***

4 ★★ Woolworth Building. The irony, of course, is that this masterpiece was built from the profits of a nickel-and-dime empire. Architect Cass Gilbert designed it in 1913, and the neo-Gothic facade set a new standard for architectural grandeur. What made F. W. Woolworth proudest? The fact that he paid cash for the project. ***See p 15.***

The Woolworth Building.

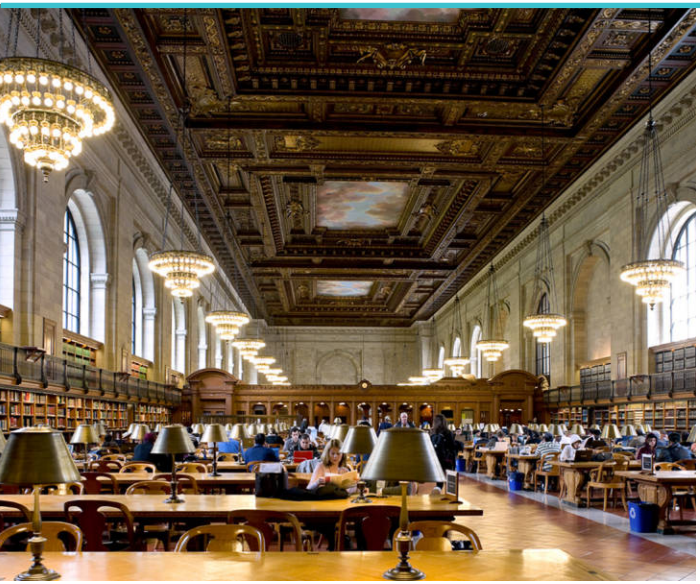
The Flatiron Building.

5 ★ The Bayard-Condict Building. Renowned Chicago architect Louis Sullivan was Frank Lloyd Wright's boss and, some say, his mentor. The only building he designed in New York is hidden down a nondescript NoHo street. It's a beaut, nonetheless: Constructed from 1897 to 1899, the 13-story building is a creamy confection, with fanciful terra-cotta decoration and ornamental friezes. ***65 Bleecker St. (btw. Broadway & Lafayette St.). Subway: 6 to Bleecker St.***

6 ★ The Flatiron Building. This triangular masterpiece was one of the city's most distinctive silhouettes. Its pie-slice form was the solution to a problem—filling the wedge of land created by the intersection of Fifth Avenue and Broadway. Built in 1902 and fronted with limestone and terra cotta (not iron), the Flatiron measures only 6 feet (1.8m) across at its narrow end. So called for its resemblance to the laundry appliance, it was originally named the Fuller Building, then later "Burnham's Folly" because people were certain that architect Daniel Burnham's 21-story structure would fall down. The building mainly houses publishing offices, but it has a few shops on the ground floor. The surrounding neighborhood has taken its name—the Flatiron District, home to smart restaurants and shops. ***175 Fifth Ave. (at 23rd St.). Subway: R to 23rd St.***

7 Wolfgang's Steakhouse. Come here for a meal as bold as the architecture you're viewing—or at least stop for a drink. In a stunning historic space on the first floor of the old Vanderbilt Hotel, a 40-year veteran of Peter Luger's storied Brooklyn steakhouse opened his own meat palace in 2004. Architect Raphael Guastavino tiled the vaulted ceilings around 1910. ***4 Park Ave. (at 33rd St.). ☎ 212/889-3369. $$$$.***

8 ★★ Empire State Building. It has 103 stories, 6,500 windows, 73 elevators, 70 miles (113km) of water pipes, and 1,860 steps from bottom to top. The limestone-and-stainless-steel Art Deco icon has been synonymous with the Manhattan skyline since its completion in 1931. The lobby alone is worth a look, with its shimmering metal-relief sculptures and rosy marble floors. Every night the Empire State Building is bathed in colored floodlights to commemorate holidays or significant events—among them red, white, and blue for Independence Day; green for St. Patrick's Day; red, black, and green for Martin Luther King Day; blue and white for Hanukkah; and lavender and white for Gay Pride Day. ***See p 7.***



The Main Reading Room at the Public Library.

9 ★★★ New York Public Library. This monumental Beaux Arts structure is glorious inside and out—and it's a model of utility to boot, with almost two million cardholders. The Main Reading Room, restored in 1998, is all soaring space and burnished oak. The sculpted lions out front are festooned with garlands during the Christmas season. Out back is one of Manhattan's prettiest green spaces, **Bryant Park**—a great warm-weather spot for a bag lunch. ***See p 8.***

10 ★★★ Chrysler Building. This 1930 Art Deco masterpiece was designed to be the world's tallest building—and it was, if only for a year. In the race against other New York architects to build the tallest skyscraper of the era, William Van Alen secretly added a stainless-steel spire inside the fire shaft, hoisting it into place only after his competitors thought his building was completed. ***405 Lexington Ave. (at 42nd St.). Subway: 4/5/6 to Grand Central.***

The Chrysler Building.

A detail of Taurus and Orion, on the Sky Ceiling *at Grand Central.*

11 ★★★ Grand Central Terminal. This magnificent public space is also an engineering wonder. The "elevated circumferential plaza," as it was called in 1913, splits Park Avenue, which is diverted around the building. The network of trains—subway and commuter—that passes through here is vast, but even more impressive is the "bridge" over the tracks, designed to support a cluster of skyscrapers. The main concourse was restored to its original glory in 1998; the *Sky Ceiling* inside depicts the constellations of the winter sky above New York. They're lit with 59 stars surrounded by dazzling 24-karat gold. Emitting light fed through fiber-optic cables, the stars in their intensities roughly replicate the magnitude of the actual stars as seen from Earth. Look carefully and you'll see a patch near one corner left unrestored—a reminder of the neglect this splendid masterpiece once endured. *42nd St. & Park Ave. ☎ 212/340-2210. www.grandcentralterminal.com. Subway: 4/5/6/7/S to 42nd St.*

12 ★★★ Rockefeller Center. Rock Center was erected mainly in the 1930s, when the city was mired in the Depression and in thrall to Art Deco—the latter expressed both in the building's architecture and in the art commissioned to decorate it. The focal point is the 1933 **GE Building** at 30 Rockefeller Plaza, one of the city's most impressive buildings. The entrance sculpture, *Wisdom,* by Lee Lawrie, is an Art Deco masterpiece, as is the artist's *Atlas,* at the entrance court of the International Building. The sunken plaza in front of 30 Rock is overseen by the gilded statue *Prometheus* by Paul Manship. ***See p 8.***

13 Rock Center. You won't go hungry in Rockefeller Center. In the **dining and shopping concourse** ($) downstairs at 30 Rock, you can pick up light meals of soup, salads, and sandwiches. If you prefer a nice sit-down lunch (and don't mind spending more), the pleasant dining rooms in the **Rock Center Café** (20 W. 50th St., btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.; ☎ 212/332-7620; $$) and the **Sea Grill** (19 W. 49th St., btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.; ☎ 212/332-7620; $$) both face the famed skating rink.

14 ★★ St. Patrick's Cathedral. Every day, hundreds of visitors and worshippers stream in and out of this massive Gothic cathedral.

Dedicated in 1879, the 2,200-seat structure has stained-glass windows crafted by artisans from Chartres, France. For those interested in visiting when the Archbishop of New York conducts services, Archbishop Dolan usually presides over Mass at 10am on Sundays and on holidays. *See p 8.*

⓯ ★★★ **Museum of Modern Art.** The world's greatest collection of painting and sculpture from the late 19th century to the present is displayed in 630,000 square feet (58,529 sq. m) of light-filled space, spread over six floors. Its highlight is a 110-foot-tall (33m) atrium, which diffuses natural light throughout. 🕘 *2 hr. See p 57.*

⓰ ★ **Lever House.** Built in 1952, this High Modern hymn to glass has undergone a spiffy renovation to restore its original sparkle. The clean-lined, relatively small skyscraper was the first in New York to employ the "curtain wall" design philosophy, with a brilliant blue-green glass facade. The bottom level is a public space. *400 Park Ave. (btw. 53rd & 54th sts.). Subway: 6 to Lexington Ave.*

⓱ ★★★ **Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum.** Frank Lloyd Wright's only New York edifice—built in 1959—is a brilliant feat of architecture. The Babylonian-style "inverted ziggurat" has been compared to a wedding cake or a nautilus shell, but it is full of life and movement. Just forget your fantasies about roller-skating down the ramp of the rotunda. 🕘 *1 hr. 1071 Fifth Ave. (at 89th St.).* ☎ *212/423-3500. www.guggenheim.org. Admission $18 adults, $15 seniors & students, free for children under 12. Sun–Wed & Fri 10am–5:45pm; Sat 10am–7:45pm. Subway: 4/5/6 to 86th St. Bus: M1/2/3/4.*

Frank Lloyd Wright's Guggenheim Museum.

Behind the Architecture

For a primer on the design sentiment behind New York's greatest buildings—from the Georgian to Postmodernism—see "New York Architecture," p 174.

NYC Free & Dirt-Cheap

Seeing the sights in New York is often just a matter of turning the corner. "Ballet aerialists" dangling from the Stock Exchange, brass bands wailing at Chinatown street funerals, and wall-to-wall "hot dogs" preening during Dachshund Day in Washington Square Park—you won't pay a penny for any of it. Here are some other free (or dirt-cheap) ways to savor the Big Apple. **START: Subway 6 to 77th or 86th Street.**

1 ★★ Summer Music in Central Park. The **New York Philharmonic** plays free evening concerts on the Great Lawn (midpark from 79th–85th sts.; http://nyphil.org). Nearby, **Shakespeare in the Park** features free, star-studded Public Theater productions of Shakespeare classics in June at the Delacorte Theater (southwest corner of the Great Lawn, midpark at 80th St.; www.publictheater.org).

2 ★★ Roosevelt Island Tram. Roosevelt Island residents who ride the tram back and forth to Manhattan every day are privy to one of New York's best-kept secrets: The view from the tram is one of the city's most dramatic. Each way is only 4 minutes long. Look down the East River, and you'll see four bridges (Queensboro, Williamsburg, Manhattan, and Brooklyn). *Second*

The Roosevelt Island Tram.

The Philharmonic playing in Central Park.

Ave. & 59th St. Fare $2.25. Subway: 4/5/6/N/R/W to 59th St.

3 ★★★ New York Public Library. This magnificent Beaux Arts building, worth a trip in itself, has permanent and temporary exhibitions plus a nice gift shop in the lobby. Oh, and it's all free. *See p 8.*

4 ★ Movies in Bryant Park. During most of the year, Bryant Park is a peaceful oasis of green, just behind the New York Public Library. In summer, though, the park hosts its Summer Film Festival featuring classic-movie screenings on Monday evenings at dusk. The lawn opens at 5pm for blankets and picnics. *Bordered by 40th and 42nd sts. & Fifth and Sixth aves. ☎ 212/512-5700. www.bryantpark.org. Subway: B/D/F/M to 42nd St.*

A mask from the National Museum of the American Indian.

5 ★★ **High Line.** A derelict elevated freight-train track has been reborn as an inspired public park, which winds along pathways through an outdoor "integrative landscape" of natural habitats and art installations, alongside stunning Hudson River views. ***See p 69.***

6 ★★ kids **National Museum of the American Indian.** This Smithsonian Institution museum houses a fabulous collection of artifacts in one of the city's most impressive buildings—and it's free! ***See p 53.***

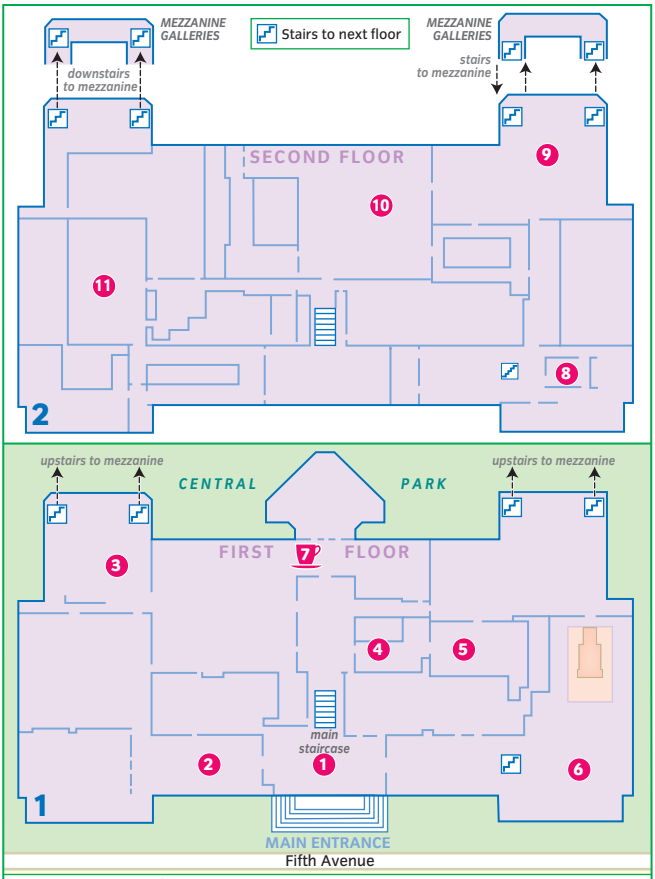
7 ★★ **Staten Island Ferry.** This free 25-minute ride takes you up close and past the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. ***Whitehall Ferry Terminal.*** ☎ ***718/727-2508. www.siferry.com.***

TV Tapings

It's free—but not easy—to view the tapings of such New York–based shows as *The Late Show with David Letterman, The Colbert Report, The Daily Show with Jon Stewart, The Rachel Ray Show,* and *The View.* The catch is ordering tickets well in advance. Check the "ticket request" section on each show's website and specify how many tickets you want and your preferred dates. For the latest details, go to the website of **NYC & Company,** the city's official marketing and tourism department (☎ 212/484-1222; www.nycgo.com) and check out "TV Show Tapings."

3 The Best **Museums**

The Metropolitan Museum of Art



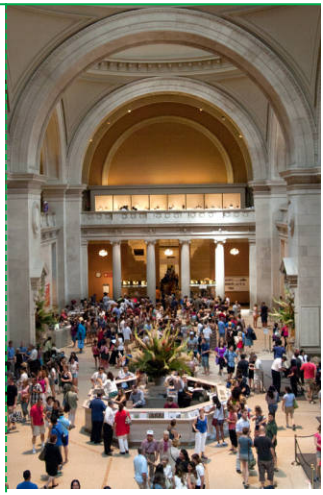
1. The Great Hall
2. Greek & Roman Galleries
3. Modern Art Wing
4. European Sculpture & Decorative Arts
5. Arms & Armor
6. Egyptian Art
7. Cafeteria
8. Asian Art
9. American Wing
10. European Paintings: Old Masters
11. European Paintings: 19th & Early 20th Centuries

Previous page: Inside the MoMA.

In 1866, a group of New Yorkers decided their hometown needed a museum that would function as a living encyclopedia of world art. Today the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the associated Cloisters museum fulfill that promise with a collection of more than two million objects dating from the Paleolithic period—that is, the Stone Age—to the early 21st century. START: **Subway 4, 5, or 6 to 86th Street, or Bus M1, M2, M3, or M4 to 82nd Street and Fifth Avenue or 83rd Street and Madison Avenue.**

1 The Great Hall. The main entrance to the Met makes all who enter feel like royalty. With its soaring ceilings, elegant balconies, and restrained use of Greco-Roman motifs, it's a fine example of neoclassical architecture. The massive sprays of fresh flowers have been a tradition here since 1969.

2 ★★★ Greek & Roman Galleries. Some 3,700 people per day have visited the spectacular Greek and Roman galleries since their opening in 2007. The centerpiece is the **Leon Levy and Shelby White Court,** a dramatic peristyle area rich with Hellenistic and Roman art. Among its treasures is a massive statue of **Hercules** with a lion skin draped heroically over his arm. In the galleries visitors can see **Roman frescoes** long buried under ash after a volcanic eruption; exquisite **gold serpentine armbands;** and the **"Black Bedroom,"** reputedly made for a villa built by a close friend of the Emperor Augustus.



The Met's Great Hall.

3 ★★ Modern Art Wing. Head through the galleries of the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas to get to the Modern Art Wing, which is full of blockbuster works. Must-sees include Pablo Picasso's ***Gertrude***

Practical Matters

The Met (☎ 212/535-7710; www.metmuseum.org; Sun & Tues–Thurs 9:30am–5:30pm; Fri–Sat 9:30am–9pm) is located at 1000 Fifth Avenue (at 82nd St.). Admission is $20 adults, $15 seniors, $10 students, free for children under 12 with adult. Closed Mondays (except holiday Mon, such as Labor Day, and the like). If you're in a rush, skip the main entrance on 82nd and enter through 81st Street. The least crowded times are Friday and Saturday nights or right at opening time.

Stein, Jackson Pollock's ***Autumn Rhythm,*** and Edward Hopper's ***The Lighthouse at Two Lights.*** Seek out Charles Demuth's 1928 ***I Saw the Figure 5 in Gold,*** a smashing iconic American image that radiates energy and was a big influence on the Pop artists of the 1950s.

4 ★★ **European Sculpture & Decorative Arts.** These galleries are filled with period rooms that include a handsome **bedroom** from an 18th-century Venetian palace, a mid-18th-century **Tapestry Room** from an English country estate, and the astonishing ***Studiolo*** from the Ducal Palace in Gubbio. The walls of this small Renaissance study are covered in elaborate panels inlaid with thousands of pieces of wood to give the illusion of a room lined with cabinets containing books, musical instruments, and scientific tools.

5 ★ kids **Arms & Armor.** The full sets of European armor in the courtyard are dazzling, but make sure to pop into the smaller galleries that surround the court. Here you'll find such curiosities as ceremonial saddles carved from bone and pistols inlaid with semiprecious stones. A Turkish saber created in 1876 for the investiture of an Ottoman sultan (who had a nervous breakdown before the ceremony and was deposed) is a miracle of sparkling diamonds, smooth-as-ice jade, and rich gold work.

6 ★★★ kids **Egyptian Art.** The **Temple of Dendur,** built in 15 B.C. and relocated from Egypt, is arguably the most famous object at the Met. Inside, you'll find graffiti from Victorian-era travelers. For a glimpse of daily life in ancient Egypt, check out the 13 wooden models from the **tomb of Meketre.** These models represent Meketre's earthly wealth that is to be taken with him into the afterlife. They show his bakery, his dairy, his beer-producing facility, and boats.

7 **Cafeteria.** Year-round you can grab a good, filling lunch at the Met's ground-floor **cafeteria** ($)—it even

The Cloisters

If you still have energy after visiting the Met, hop on the M4 bus at Madison and 83rd Street and head up to **The Cloisters** (☎ 212/923-3700). This museum devoted to medieval art and architecture is a branch of the Met, but it feels like a world apart. In Fort Tryon Park overlooking the Hudson, the building incorporates elements from five medieval cloisters in France, Spain, and Italy.

Besides the Cloisters' magnificent setting and extraordinary architecture, it would be worth coming just to see ***The Unicorn Tapestries,*** a series of seven tapestries depicting a sometimes brutal hunt that ends with the resurrection of the unicorn enclosed in a garden under a pomegranate tree. Robert Campin's ***Annunciation*** altarpiece is another memorable work. Filled with genre details, it depicts the Virgin Mary in a medieval Dutch setting.

Note: The last stop on the M4 is directly in front of The Cloisters. The ride takes 1 hour. Admission is free with same-day Met button.

has kids' meals. Or, if it's a nice day, head outside the main entrance and get a snack from one of the **carts** ($) on the plaza. The food won't be gourmet, but eating a pretzel or hot dog while people-watching from the steps of the museum is a quintessential New York experience. For other dining options, see p 111.

8 ★ Asian Art. The **Astor Court,** a Chinese scholar's garden based on a Ming Dynasty design, is a great place for a little R&R. The principle of yin and yang, or opposites, gives this space its sense of harmony and tranquility. Also in this section: the Japanese galleries, filled with delicate scrolls, screens, kimonos, and tapestries. And don't miss the **Japanese tearoom/study room.**

9 ★★ American Wing. This airy, light-filled section of the Met is a museum inside a museum. The Hudson River Valley paintings are extraordinary in their scope, from the grandeur of Frederick Church's ***The Heart of the Andes*** to the delicate and refined ***Lake George*** by John Kensett. Plenty is recognizable here, from the iconic ***Washington Crossing the Delaware*** by Emanuel Leutze, to John Singer Sargent's ***Madame X,*** Winslow Homer's ***Northeaster,*** and Mary Cassatt's ***Lady at the Tea Table.*** The American Wing includes 25 furnished period rooms from the late 17th to the early 20th century, including **Frank Lloyd Wright**'s ***Living Room from the Little House.*** It's a wonderful example of Wright's Prairie Style, with the focus on open space and the dramatic horizontal lines that make you feel close to the earth.

10 ★★ European Paintings: Old Masters. To get to these galleries, cross the Engelhard Court and go up the elegant Louis Sullivan staircase to the second level. As you open the door into the European

Francisco de Goya's Majas on a Balcony.

paintings galleries, you'll come face to face with Rembrandt's ***Aristotle with a Bust of Homer.*** Other highlights include Jan Vermeer's ***Young Woman with a Water Jug,*** El Greco's ***Portrait of a Cardinal,*** Diego Velázquez's ***Juan de Pareja,*** Francisco Goya's ***Don Manuel,*** Fra Filippo Lippi's ***Portrait of Man and Woman at the Casement,*** Pieter Bruegel's ***The Harvesters,*** Titian's ***Venus and Adonis,*** and Duccio's ***Madonna and Child.***

11 ★★★ European Paintings: 19th & Early 20th Centuries. One of the most popular sections in the museum, these galleries include a good sampling of Impressionist art. Here you can compare Gustave Courbet's controversial and explicitly sexual ***Woman with a Parrot*** with a more discreet version by Edouard Manet. You can watch the emergence of Claude Monet's loose, painterly style from his tightly composed ***Garden at Sainte-Adresse*** to the practically abstract ***Poplars.*** Finally, take a look at Paul Cézanne's ***Still Life with Apples and Pears*** with its funky perspectives and innovative use of color to get a feel for the radical changes in painting that developed in the 20th century.

The Best **Small Museums**

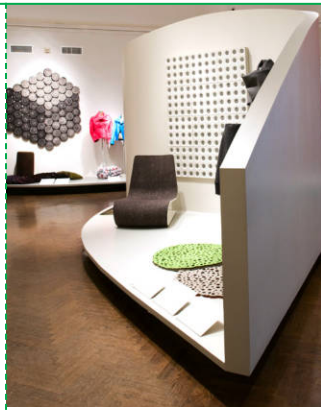
1. Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum
2. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum
3. New-York Historical Society
4. The Whitney Museum of American Art
5. The Frick Collection
6. The Paley Center for Media
7. International Center of Photography
8. The Morgan Library & Museum
9. Museum of Sex
10. Rubin Museum of Art
11. New Museum
12. National Museum of the American Indian
13. Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

Few cities can match New York in the breadth and depth of its museum collections. Sure, the big boys are here—the Met, MoMA, and the Natural History museum—but world-class treasures await in the smaller collections as well. Here are some of the best to get you started. You would need at least 3 days to see all these.

START: Subway 4, 5, or 6 to 86th Street.

1 ★★ Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum. This richly appointed 64-room mansion, with sumptuous oak paneling and a truly grand staircase (one, a critic noted, "you could drive a Sherman tank up"), was steel industrialist Andrew Carnegie's private home. After a $20-million renovation in 1974, the house became part of the Smithsonian Institution, with 11,000 square feet (1,022 sq. m) of gallery space devoted to industrial design, drawings, textiles, wall coverings, books, and prints. You'll see woven silk from 13th-century Europe, Chinese hand-painted wallpaper, and a rare Michelangelo scribble. Spend time in the garden, an idyllic oasis—Carnegie deliberately built his home farther north than his contemporaries in order to have room to create this spectacular, private space. Steal a kiss in the lovely glass conservatory—you won't be the first. *1½ hr. 2 E. 91st St. (at Fifth Ave.). 212/849-8400. www.cooperhewitt.org. Admission $15 adults, $10 seniors & students, free for children under 12. Mon–Fri 10am–5pm; Sat 10am–6pm; Sun 11am–6pm. Subway: 4/5/6 to 86th St.*

2 ★★★ Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. One of the largest of New York's small museums, the Guggenheim holds a wide-ranging collection of modern art, from an 1867 landscape by Camille Pissaro to important works by Picasso, Wassili Kandinsky, and Amedeo Modigliani. The building alone is a masterpiece, a project that took Frank Lloyd Wright 15 years to fully imagine. *See p 41.*



The Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum.

3 ★★ New-York Historical Society. The New-York Historical Society is a major repository of American history, culture, and art, with a special focus on New York. Where else can you find a collection that includes Tiffany lamps, vintage dollhouses, Audubon watercolors, life and death masks of prominent Americans, and even George Washington's camp bed? *1½ hr. 2 W. 77th St. (at Central Park West). 212/873-3400. www.nyhistory.org. Admission $12 adults, $9 seniors, $7 students, free for children 12 & under. Tues–Sat 10am–6pm (till 8pm Fri); Sun 11am–5:45pm. Bus: M79. Subway: 1/9 to 79th St.*

4 ★★ The Whitney Museum of American Art. This museum was built around Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney's collection of 20th-century art, including works by Edward Hopper, Jasper Johns, and Georgia

O'Keefe. The original museum was established in 1931 near Vanderbilt's home in Greenwich Village. It has been in its present home, a concrete-and-granite structure designed by architect Marcel Breuer, since 1966. The collection includes provocative 21st-century pieces, many of them shown in the trend-setting Whitney Biennial, an exhibition of cutting-edge works by up-and-coming artists. *2 hr. 945 Madison Ave. (at 75th St.). 800/WHITNEY (944-8639). http://whitney.org. Admission $18 adults, $12 seniors & students, free children under 18. Wed–Thurs & Sat–Sun 11am–6pm, Fri 1–9pm. Subway: 6 to 77th St.*

5 ★★★ The Frick Collection. If you want to see how Gilded Age millionaires lived, don't miss the Frick. It's said that steel titan Henry Clay Frick commissioned this marble mansion to make his fellow industrialist Andrew Carnegie's home "look like a miner's shack." The collection is first-rate, with period rooms hung with works by Rembrandt, Goya, Vermeer, James McNeill Whistler, Jean Baptiste Camille Corot, and Frederick Turner. *See p 25.*

6 ★ kids The Paley Center for Media. Formerly known as the **Museum of Television & Radio,** this interactive museum is irresistible fun. You can see performances by great personalities past and present—from Milton Berle to Jerry Seinfeld—or do your own computer search of the museum's 140,000 choices for shows you half-remember from childhood. History buffs can revisit great moments such as the dismantling of the Berlin Wall. *1 hr. 25 W. 52nd St. (btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.). 212/621-6600. www.paleycenter.org. Admission $10 adults, $8 seniors & students, $5 children under 13. Wed & Fri–Sun noon–6pm; Thurs noon–8pm. Subway: B/D/F/M to 47th–50th sts.*

7 ★ International Center of Photography. A must-see for any photography buff, the ICP is one of the world's premier educators, collectors, and exhibitors of photographic art. The collection includes 50,000-plus prints with an emphasis on contemporary photographic works, but with a respectable collection of historically important photographers as well. *1 hr. 1133 Sixth Ave. (at 43rd St.). 212/857-0000. www.icp.org. Admission $12 adults, $8 seniors and students, under 12 free. Tues–Thurs and Sat–Sun 10am–6pm; Fri 10am–8pm. Subway: B/D/F/M to 42nd St.*

8 ★★ The Morgan Library & Museum. This Italian Renaissance–style mansion—once the private library of financier John Pierpont Morgan—boasts one of the best collections of rare books and manuscripts in the world. Look for the autographed manuscript of a Mozart symphony, early children's books, a chalk drawing by Peter Paul Rubens, and the ornate illustrations in medieval and Renaissance manuscripts. *2 hr. 29 E. 36th St. (btw. Park & Madison aves.). 212/685-0610. www.themorgan.org. Admission $15 adults, $10 seniors, students & children 13–15, free children 12 and under. Tues–Thurs 10:30am–5pm, Fri 10:30am–9pm, Sat 10am–6pm, Sun 11am–6pm. Subway: B/D/F/N/Q/R/M to 34th St.*

9 ★ Museum of Sex. When this museum opened, it managed to cause a stir even among hard-bitten New Yorkers. Among the collections are early sex films, artifacts from burlesque theaters, S&M displays, painted nudes, and even blow-up dolls. *1 hr. 233 Fifth Ave. (at 27th St.). 866/MOSEX-NYC (667-3969). www.museumofsex.com. Admission $17 adults, $14 students & seniors. No one under 18 admitted. Sun–Thurs*

10am–8pm; Fri–Sat 10am–9pm. Subway: N/R to 28th St.

10 ★★ Rubin Museum of Art. New York must have some good karma: In October 2004 it scored this stunning collection of Himalayan art. In the former Chelsea outpost of Barneys, the Rubin Museum features sculptures, paintings, and textiles. Great gift shop, too. *1½ hr. 150 W. 17th St. (btw. Sixth & Seventh aves.). 212/620-5000. www.rmanyc.org. Admission $10 adults; $5 seniors, students, artists & neighbors; free children 12 and under. Mon & Thurs 11am–5pm; Wed 11am–7pm; Fri 11am–10pm; Sat–Sun 11am–6pm. Subway: 1/9 to 18th St.*

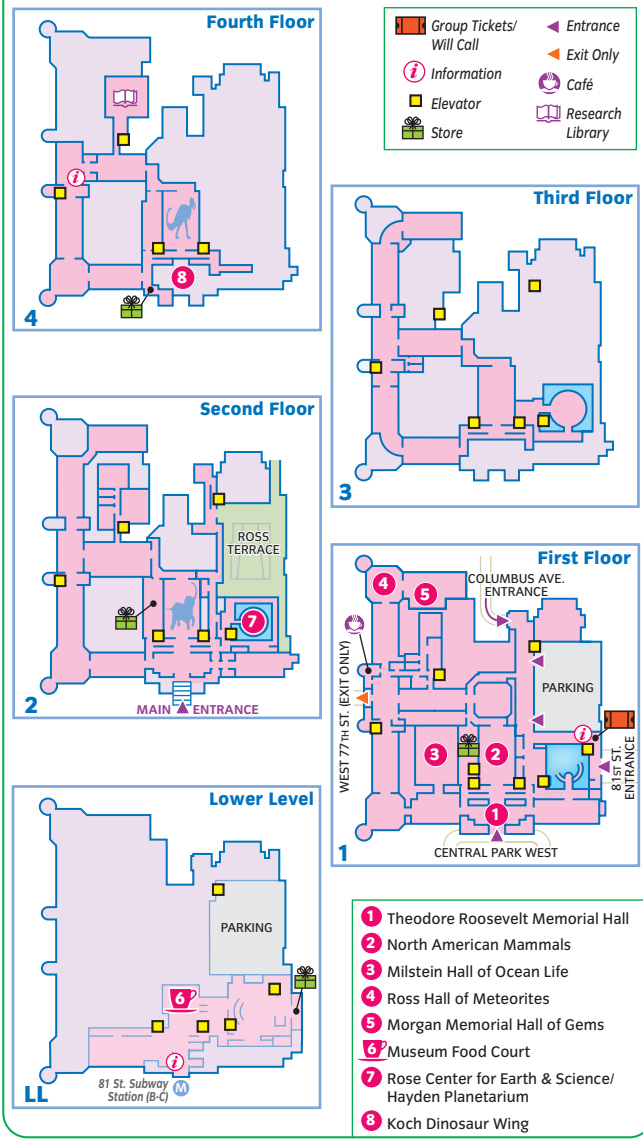
11 ★ New Museum. The seven stories of the New Museum of contemporary art, designed by Tokyo–based architects Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa, rise above the tenements of the Lower East Side like boxes haphazardly piled upon one another. The offbeat exterior reflects the character of the exhibitions inside by new and emerging artists. *1 hr. 235 Bowery (at Prince St.). 212/219-1222. www.newmuseum.org. Admission $12 adults, $10 seniors, $8 students, 18 and under free; free for all Thurs 7–9pm. Wed & Fri–Sun 11am–6pm; Thurs 11am–9pm. Subway: 6 to Spring St.; N/R to Prince St.*

12 ★★ kids National Museum of the American Indian. Long before European colonists arrived, the continents of North and South America were the sole domain of Native Indian tribes and an abundant assortment of fauna. But once settlers arrived, the saga of the American Indian's rapid decline began. Guns and disease took their toll, but here in New York, it took a simple trade to ultimately displace the natives: In 1626, regional tribes sold Manhattan Island to the Dutch West India Company for 60 guilders. This museum's collection spans that period, as well as more than 10,000 years of North and South America's pre-European history. *1 hr. 1 Bowling Green. 212/514-3700. www.americanindian.si.edu. Free admission. Daily 10am–5:30pm. Subway: 4/5 to Bowling Green; 1/9 to South Ferry.*

13 ★★ Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Dedicated to teaching people of all backgrounds about 20th-century Jewish life, this award-winning museum was designed in a six-sided shape to symbolize the Star of David and honor the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust. Inside are photos, artifacts, and moving accounts from survivors. A second-story stone garden—where each of the hollowed-out boulders has a tree growing out of it—overlooks New York Harbor. *2 hr. 36 Battery Place. 646/437-4200. www.mjhnyc.org. Admission $12 adults, $10 seniors, $7 students, free for children 12 and under. Sun–Tues & Thurs 10am–5:45pm; Wed 10am–8pm; Fri 10am–5pm; Fri & eves of Jewish holidays 10am–3pm. Subway: 4/5 to Bowling Green; 1/9 to South Ferry.*

The New Museum.

The American Museum of Natural History



It's got dinosaurs, meteorites, and giant sapphires—and that's just for starters. The American Museum of Natural History has one of the most diverse and thrilling collections in the world—four floors of nature's wonders for the intrepid explorer in all of us. It's delicious fun for every age. **START: Subway B or C to 81st Street.**

1 ★★ Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Hall. The sight of a giant *Barosaurus* fossil in this soaring entrance rotunda provides a smashing first course to the rest of your visit.

2 ★★ North American Mammals. One of the museum's popular Habitat Group Dioramas, where skillfully mounted animals are shown in lifelike reproductions of their natural habitats. In one diorama, an Alaskan brown bear, the world's largest living land carnivore, rears up on its hind legs.

3 ★★ Milstein Hall of Ocean Life. This vast first-floor room explores life in the deep blue sea, with lighted fish dioramas and a spectacular replica of a giant blue whale overhead.

4 ★★ Ross Hall of Meteorites. On display is a 34-ton meteorite, said to be merely a fragment of a massive meteorite that scientists estimate weighed around 200 tons.

5 ★ Morgan Memorial Hall of Gems. This collection of precious gems includes the biggest sapphire ever found, the 563-carat Star of India.

6 Museum Food Court. Sustenance for the whole family, including barbecue, panini, and sandwiches. ***Lower Level. $–$$.***

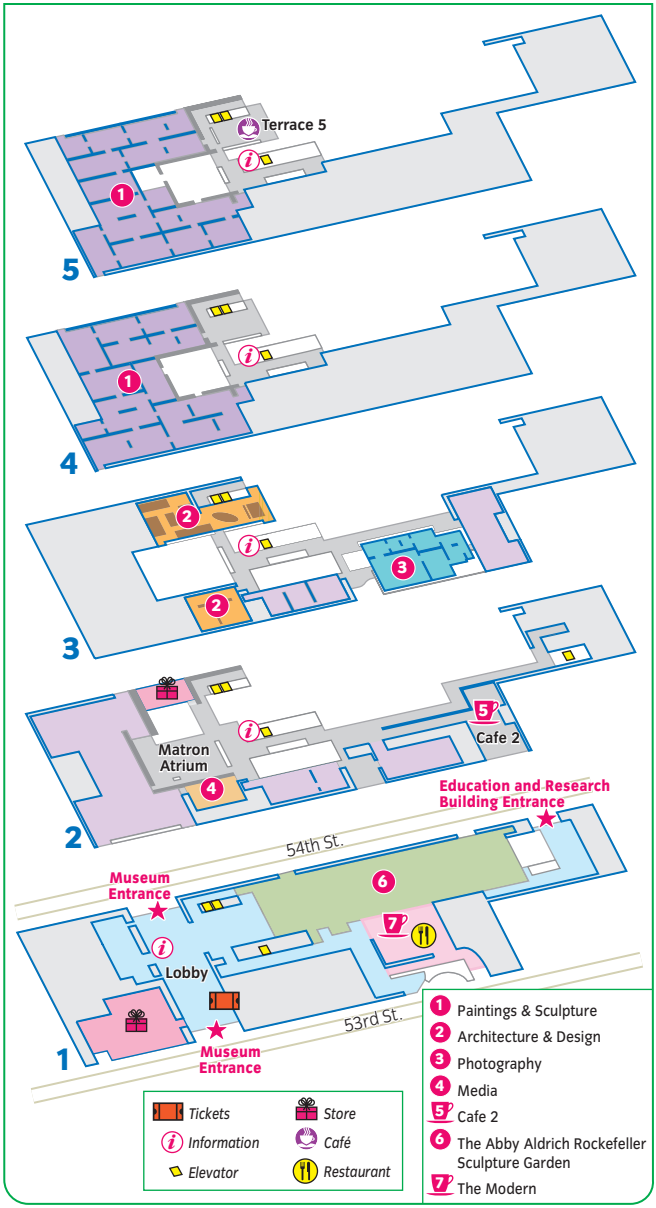
7 ★★★ Rose Center for Earth & Space/Hayden Planetarium. A sphere inside a seven-story glass cube holds the Hayden Planetarium, where you can take a virtual ride through the Milky Way. Prepare to be blown away by the planetarium **Space Show.** Buy your tickets in advance for the Space Show in order to guarantee admission (they're available online).

8 ★★★ Koch Dinosaur Wing. The fourth floor contains the largest collection of real dinosaur fossils in the world. Among the treasures is the *Tyrannosaurus rex*, with 6-inch-long teeth, and the first *Velociraptor* skull ever found.

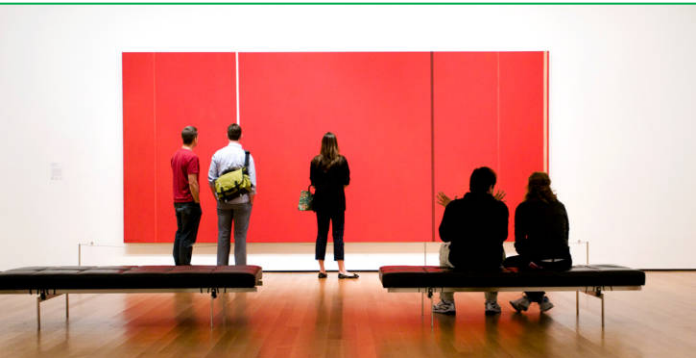
Practical Matters

The AMNH (☎ 212/769-5100; www.amnh.org; daily 10am–5:45pm) is located on Central Park West (btw. 77th & 81st sts.). Admission (includes entrance to Rose Center, above) is $16 adults, $12 seniors and students, $9 children 2 to 12; Space Show (see above) and museum admission is $24 adults, $17 seniors and students, $13 children under 12. You'll need about 4 hours to see the whole thing. Buy tickets in advance for specific IMAX shows or special exhibitions.

The Museum of **Modern Art**



For the best in modern painting and sculpture from the late 19th century to the present, head straight to MoMA, as it's affectionately known. The 2006 renovation by Yoshio Taniguchi highlights space and light, with open rooms, high ceilings, and gardens. It's a beautiful work of architecture and an enhancing complement to the art within—a vast repository of drawings, photographs, architectural models and modern furniture, iconic design objects ranging from tableware to sports cars, and film and video. START: **Subway E or M to Fifth Avenue/53rd Street, or B, D, or F to 47th–50th streets.**



Studying Barnett Newman's Vir Heroicus Sublimis *at the Museum of Modern Art.*

1 ★★★ Painting & Sculpture. Start your tour at the top: on the fourth and fifth floors. Among the museum treasures are Vincent van Gogh's ***The Starry Night,*** Paul Cézanne's ***The Bather,*** Picasso's ***Les Demoiselles d'Avignon,*** and Henri Rousseau's ***The Sleeping Gypsy.*** Look for celebrated works by Henri Matisse, Paul Gauguin, Marc Chagall, Edward Hopper, René Magritte, Willem de Kooning, Mark Rothko, Barnett Newman, Frank Stella, and Jackson Pollock.

2 ★★★ Architecture & Design. The third floor contains some 28,000 works that perhaps more than any other collection reflect the form-follows-function dynamism of the modern era. Here are Eames chairs, Frank Lloyd Wright windows, a 1908 Peter Behrens fan, and even elegantly designed ball bearings.

Practical Matters

The MoMA (☎ 212/708-9400; www.moma.org; Wed–Thurs & Sat–Mon 10:30am–5:30pm, Fri 10:30am–8pm) is located at 11 W. 53rd St. (btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.). Admission is $20 adults, $16 seniors, $12 students, kids 16 and under free when accompanied by an adult. You'll need a full day to see it all.

3 ★★ **Photography.** MoMA started collecting photographs in 1930, well before most people considered photography an art form. This stunning collection on the third floor holds important works by Walker Evans, Man Ray, and Cindy Sherman, as well as mid-19th-century albumen silver prints from glass-plate negatives.

Travel Tip

MoMA's museum-wide Wi-Fi network allows visitors to access the museum's mobile website on smartphones and tablets with Internet access. Audio tours and commentary can be found there; content is available in eight languages and in specialized versions for children, teenagers, and the visually impaired.

4 ★ **Media.** This collection on the second floor covers some 50 years of works in media, from moving-image installations and short films to pieces that combine avant-garde performance art and video.

5 ★ **Cafe 2.** Forget the museum cafes of old, with rubbery food and harsh lighting. This museum cafe has a soft wood-and-gold shimmer, and serves handmade pastas, artisanal cheeses, seasonal soups, panini, and decent wines. ***Second Floor. $–$$.***

6 ★★ **Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Sculpture Garden.** This landscaped outdoor space (originally designed by architect Philip Johnson) is home to works of sculpture from the museum collection. Look for Pablo Picasso's whimsical ***She-Goat*** (1950) and Alberto Giacometti's long, lean ***Tall Figure III*** (1960), as well as installations by contemporary artists such as Richard Serra.

7 ★★ **The Modern.** Whether you're here for lunch, dinner, or a cocktail, this is a destination in itself. It's sleek and fabulous, with big glass windows overlooking the Sculpture Garden. ***First Floor. ☎ 212/333-1220. www.themodernnyc.com. $$$.*** ●

P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center

If you're interested in new work that's thrillingly cutting-edge, this MoMA affiliate is worth the trip—one stop outside Manhattan in Queens. Originally a public school, **P.S. 1** (22–25 Jackson Ave. at 46th Ave., Long Island City; ☎ 718/784-2084; www.ps1.org; Thurs–Mon noon–6pm) is one of the world's largest nonprofit art institutions, exhibiting contemporary art from America and abroad. The array of works includes large-scale exhibitions by artists such as James Turrell and Richard Serra. Suggested admission is $10 adults, $5 seniors and students (free for MoMA members). Take the E or M train to 23rd Street/Ely Avenue; or the 7 train to 45th Road/Court House Square.

4 The Best Neighborhood Walks

Downtown & New York Harbor

Previous page: A brownstone in Park Slope, Brooklyn.

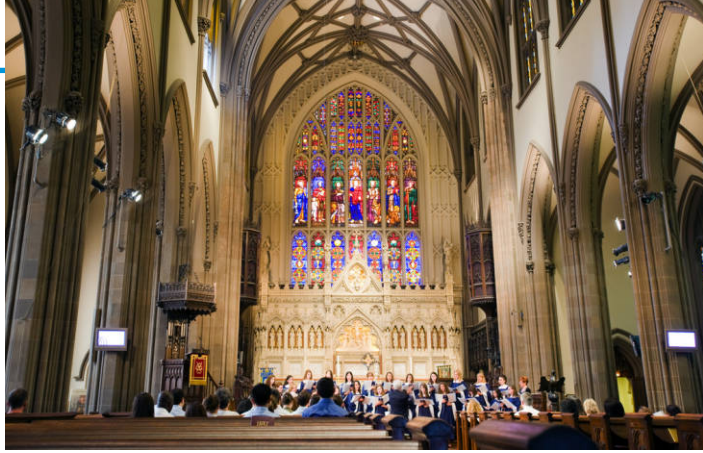
The southern tip of Manhattan is where the action began some 400 years ago. This area includes 17th-century cobblestone alleyways, the seaport where 18th-century commerce helped build the city, historic landmarks of the American Revolution, and the canyons of Wall Street, constructed in outsize Deco style in the early 20th century. START: **Subway 4 or 5 to Bowling Green, or 1 or 9 to South Ferry.**

1 ★★★ kids Statue of Liberty & Ellis Island. Annie Moore, an Irish teenager, celebrated her 15th birthday on January 1, 1892, as the first person to pass through Ellis Island, America's main point of entry for immigrants from 1892 to 1954. For Annie and the 12 million others who subsequently entered the U.S. by way of Ellis Island, Lady Liberty was likely their first glimpse of America. The statue was slated to commemorate 100 years of American independence in 1876. But it wasn't until 1886 that the statue was finally dedicated on U.S. soil. On Liberty Island, you can explore the **Statue of Liberty Museum,** peer into the inner structure through a glass ceiling near the base of the statue, and enjoy views from the observation deck atop a 16-story pedestal. On Ellis Island, you can take self-guided or ranger tours of the immigration complex and view exhibits at the **Ellis Island Immigration Museum** in the main building. *2½ hr. See p 17.*

The entrance to Ellis Island.

2 Fraunces Tavern Museum. It was on this site that George Washington bade farewell to his officers at the end of the American Revolution with these words: "With a heart full of love and gratitude I now take leave of you. I most devoutly wish that your latter days may be as prosperous and happy as your former ones have been glorious and honorable." The museum here (in the 1907 replica of the original 1717 tavern) has period rooms, art and artifacts (including a lock of Washington's hair and one of his false teeth), and temporary exhibits. *45 min. 54 Pearl St. (near Broad St.). 212/425-1778. www.frauncestavernmuseum.org. Admission $10 adults, $5 seniors, students & children 6–18, free for children under 6. Mon–Sat noon–5pm. Subway: R/W to Whitehall St.; 4/5 to Bowling Green; 1/9 to South Ferry.*

3 The Porterhouse Brewing Company at Fraunces Tavern. Housed in the museum of the same name, this Irish/brewery restaurant serves lunch and dinner with an emphasis on Colonial-era vittles (steamed mussels, smoked haddock



Choir practice at Trinity Church.

chowder, shepherd's pie). ***54 Pearl St. (near Broad St.). ☎ 212/425-1776. $$.***

4 ★ Pearl Street Underground Tavern. Little is left of 17th-century New York, but an excavation in 1979 led to the discovery of the foundation of Lovelace's Tavern, built in 1670. In an ingenious move, the underground excavation was left in place—as was an early-18th-century cistern—and the street above it was replaced with Plexiglas, so that anyone walking by can look down and see the old foundation and artifacts. ***Pearl St. at Coenties Alley. Subway: R/W to Whitehall St.; 4/5 to Bowling Green, 1/9 to South Ferry.***

5 ★★ Stone Street Historic District. This 17th-century cobblestone alley has become a mini–dining-and-drinking enclave, with restaurants, bars, and a heralded pizzeria. ***See p 37.***

6 ★★ kids National Museum of the American Indian. Set inside one of the city's most extravagant Beaux-Arts landmarks—the 1907 Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House—this museum's collection spans more than 10,000 years of North and South America's pre-European history. The Cass Gilbert building is awfully grand, with marine motifs, voluminous columns, an elliptical rotunda, and marble aplenty. What's more, admission is free. ***See p 53.***

7 ★★ Trinity Church. Alexander Hamilton is buried in the church's south cemetery. The original building was erected in 1698, though the present structure dates to 1846. ***See p 17.***

8 ★★★ Wall Street. The street synonymous with high finance began, literally, in 1653 as a 12-foot-high (3.6m) wooden palisade built by the Dutch to keep out the British. Today it's home to some of the city's most impressive architecture, much of it skyscraping Art Deco artifacts from the city's Jazz Age heyday. Check out the Bank of New York building, **1 Wall Street,** a tiered limestone tribute to Art Deco built in 1931. In 1920, a bomb exploded in front of financier J. P. Morgan's 1913 headquarters, the neoclassical **23 Wall Street** (the Morgan Guaranty Trust Building), killing 33 people; it was said to be the work of anarchists. For a

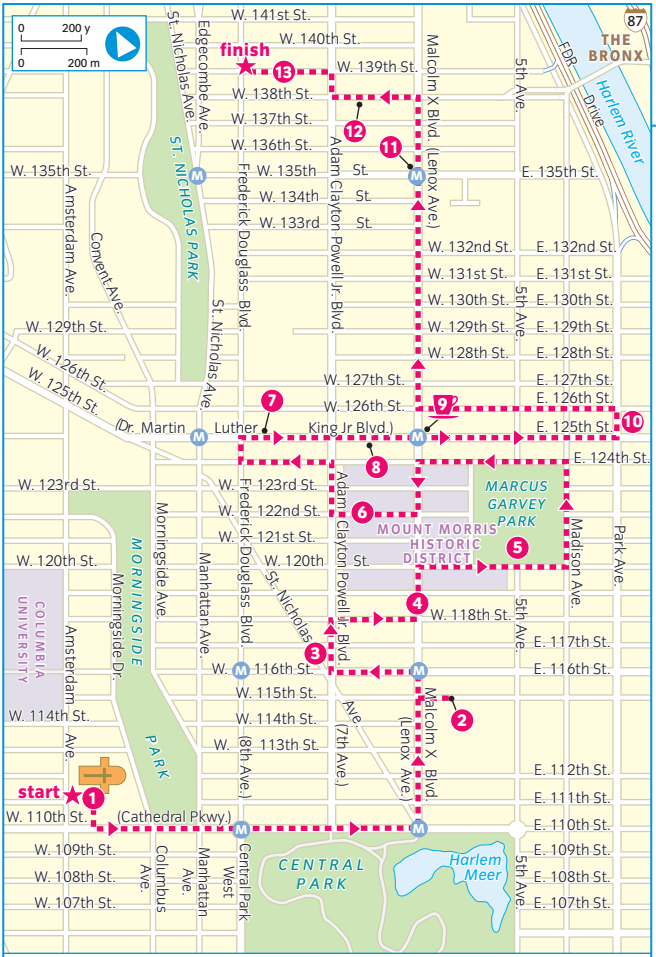
nanosecond, the tallest building in the world was **40 Wall Street,** a Deco beauty built in 1930 but soon overtaken in height by the Chrysler Building. The sumptuous Merchants' Exchange (now Cipriani Wall Street) at **55 Wall Street** was built from 1836 to 1842 but was added onto by McKim, Meade & White in 1907. *Wall St. (btw. Broadway & FDR Dr.).*

9 ★★ Federal Hall National Memorial. This majestic 1842 structure is one of Wall Street's most recognizable monuments. On this site the First Congress met and the Bill of Rights was written. It was out in front that George Washington was inaugurated, on April 30, 1789 (right where his statue stands today). The capital moved to Philadelphia in 1790, and the original Federal Hall was torn down in 1812. *15 min. 26 Wall St. (btw. Nassau & William sts.). 212/825-6888. www.nps.gov/feha. Free admission. Mon–Fri 9am–5pm. Subway: 2/3/4/5/6 to Wall St.*

10 kids South Street Seaport. Dating from the 18th century, this landmark historic district on the East River encompasses 11 square blocks of buildings, a maritime museum, several piers, shops, and restaurants. Although today the Seaport is shamelessly commercial and touristy (the biggest draw is Pier 17, a barge converted into a mall with the Gap, Coach, Abercrombie & Fitch, and other chain stores), visible reminders of the city's vibrant shipping past abound. Rows of ships once lined South Street, doing business with the various warehouses in the neighborhood. Much of the **Schermerhorn Row** block (2–18 Fulton St.) has remained intact since its beginnings in 1811. The **South Street Seaport Museum** boasts paintings and prints, ship models, and temporary exhibitions; several historic ships, including the 1911 four-masted ***Peking,*** are also berthed at piers 15, 16, and 17. Take the kids to the innovative **Imagination Playground,** designed by David Rockwell, at Burling Slip. *1½–2 hr. Seaport: Pier 17; Fulton & South sts. www.southstreetseaport.com. Museum: 12 Fulton St. 212/748-8786. www.seany.org. Museum admission (Land & Sea Pass) $15 adults, $12 seniors, youth & students, free for children 1 and under. Museum Tues–Sun 10am–6pm. Subway: 2/3/4/5/J/M/Z to Fulton St.; A/C to Broadway-Nassau.*

The Peking *at Pier 16 of the South Street Seaport.*

Historic Harlem

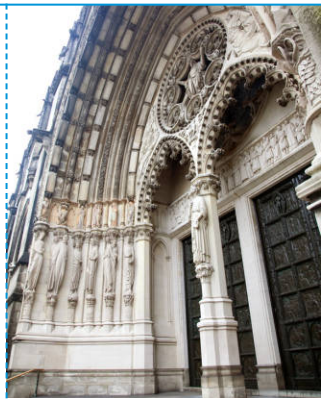


1. The Cathedral of St. John the Divine
2. Malcolm Shabazz Harlem Market
3. Minton's Playhouse
4. Mount Morris Park Historic District
5. Marcus Garvey Park
6. Hale House Center
7. Apollo Theater
8. Studio Museum in Harlem
9. Red Rooster Harlem
10. National Jazz Museum in Harlem
11. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
12. Abyssinian Baptist Church
13. Strivers' Row

It wasn't until the mid–19th century that Nieuw Amsterdam and Nieuw Harlem—the two towns the Dutch founded on the island of Manhattan—became one. But, largely shaped by African Americans who came north in droves after the Civil War and again after the end of World War I, Harlem has retained its own distinct character to this day. **START: Subway 1 or 9 to 110th Street.**

1 ★★★ The Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The mother church of New York's Episcopal diocese makes a good starting point for your walk. Once completed, it will be the largest Gothic-style cathedral in the world. The land was purchased in 1887, the cornerstone was laid in 1892, and the choir was finally installed in 1911. Work stopped with the advent of World War II, then resumed in 1979. St. John the Divine houses fantastic art treasures in its thematic chapels (dedicated to sports, poetry, and firefighting, among other subjects). Above the choir, the 17th-century **Barberini Tapestries** depict scenes from the life of Christ. The tremendous rose window is composed of 10,000 pieces of colored glass. *1½ hr. 1047 Amsterdam Ave. (btw. 111th & 112th sts.). 212/316-7490. www.stjohndivine.org. Public tours $6 adults; $5 students & seniors. Mon–Sat 7am–6pm; Sun 7am–7pm. Subway: 1/9 to 110th St.*

2 ★ Malcolm Shabazz Harlem Market. At this colorful outdoor bazaar, tiny shops and stalls hawk West African crafts and local souvenirs. Glimpse across the street to **Masjid Malcolm Shabazz Mosque** (102 W. 116th St. at Lenox Ave.): In a former life, this religious center was the Lenox Casino. After Malcolm X was assassinated in 1965, it was redesigned as a mosque, topped off by a green aluminum dome. *52 W. 115th St. (btw. Lenox & Fifth aves.). 212/987-8131. Daily 10am–8pm. Bus: M4. Subway: 2/3 to 115th St.*



The imposing front door of St. John the Divine.

3 Minton's Playhouse. Bebop was born at this legendary 1930s jazz club. Here Charlie Parker, Miles Davis, house pianist Thelonious Monk, and others jammed late into the night. The interior is only open at odd hours. *208 W. 118th St. (btw. St. Nicholas Ave. & Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Blvd.).*

4 ★★ Mount Morris Park Historic District. This impressive collection of 19th- and 20th-century row houses and brownstones was built for wealthy white merchants. The homes were built in various styles, from Romanesque Revival to Queen Anne. *Bounded by 119th St., 124th St., Lenox Ave. & Mount Morris Park West.*

5 ★ Marcus Garvey Park. This rocky outcropping is one of the highest natural points on Manhattan. (Firefighters built a watchtower here in 1865, which you can still climb for

a fantastic view.) The park was renamed in 1973 in honor of black nationalist leader Marcus Garvey. *120th St. & Mount Morris Park West.*

6 **Hale House Center.** Established in 1969 by Mother Clara Hale to aid drug-addicted infants and their mothers, this residence is now a learning center for children and families. Hale died in 1992, but sculptor Robert Berks memorialized her in a **sculpture** surrounded by etched bronze plaques of children. *152 W. 122nd St. (btw. Seventh Ave. & Malcolm X Blvd.).*

7 ★★★ **Apollo Theater.** This legendary theater has featured them all—Count Basie, Billie Holiday, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Marvin Gaye, Aretha Franklin, B. B. King, and more. "Amateur Night at the Apollo" launched the careers of Ella Fitzgerald, James Brown, Lauryn Hill, and the Jackson 5—and it's still going strong. Historic tours are generally scheduled for groups and must be booked well in advance. Across the street, the elegant 1911 **Victoria Theater** (235–237 W. 125th St. btw. Seventh & Eighth aves.) remains shuttered. The sumptuous movie palace long ago filled its 2,394 seats with vaudeville fans and early film buffs. *253 W. 125th St. (Frederick Douglass Blvd.). ☎ 212/531-5300. www.apollotheater.org. Amateur Night tickets $19–$40. Tours $14 weekdays, $16 weekends. Subway: A/B/C/D/2/3 to 125th St.*

8 ★ **Studio Museum in Harlem.** Since 1968 the SMH has been devoted to collecting, preserving, and promoting 19th- and 20th-century African-American art as well as traditional African art and artifacts. *1½ hr. 144 W. 125th St. (btw. Lenox Ave. & Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd.). ☎ 212/864-4500. www.studiomuseum.org. Admission $7 adults, $3 seniors & students, free for children under 12 (free admission for all Sun). Thurs–Fri noon–9pm; Sat 10am–6pm; Sun noon–6pm. Subway: 2/3/A/B/C/D to 125th St.*

9 ★★ **Red Rooster Harlem.** For a taste of modern Harlem, hit up Chef Marcus Samuelsson's cheerful comfort food hot spot. Don't miss the signature Helga's Meatballs. *310 Lenox Ave. (btw. 125th & 126th sts.). ☎ 212/792-9001. www.redroosterharlem.com. $$–$$$.*

Bustling 125th Street in Harlem.

The Mount Morris Park Historic District.

10 National Jazz Museum in Harlem. The interim home of the National Jazz Museum offers up a small visitor's center with books, CDs, and photographs, including a print of ***A Great Day in Harlem.*** Art Kane, a photographer for *Esquire,* took the famous black-and-white photograph of 57 assembled jazz greats—including Charles Mingus, Thelonious Monk, Lester Young, and Mary Lou Williams—on the steps of a brownstone in 1958. The permanent museum will be housed in the Victoria Theater (see above), currently under renovation. *20 min. 104 E. 126th St. (btw. Lexington & Park aves.). 212/348-8300. www.jazzmuseuminharlem.org. Mon–Fri 10am–4pm. Subway: 4/5/6 to 125th St.*

11 ★★★ Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. This national research library has more than 5 million items documenting the experiences of African-Americans. The collections include manuscripts and rare books, moving images and recorded sound, art and artifacts, and photographs and prints. *45 min. 515 Malcolm X Blvd. (btw. 135th & 136th sts.). 212/491-2200. www.nypl.org. Free admission. Mon–Wed noon–8pm; Thurs–Fri 11am–6pm; Sat 10am–5pm. Subway: 2/3 to 135th St.*

12 Abyssinian Baptist Church. This Baptist church's congregation first gathered downtown in 1808, when a group of African Americans and Ethiopians withdrew from the First Baptist Church to protest its segregated seating. The congregation grew here in 1922 under the leadership of Adam Clayton Powell, Sr. (his son was the preacher, activist, and congressman for whom the nearby boulevard was named). You can join Sunday services at 9am and 11am; the interior is open at odd hours otherwise. *20 min. 132 W. Odell Clark Place (formerly 138th St., btw. Malcolm X Blvd. & Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Blvd.). 212/862-7474. www.abyssinian.org. Subway: 2/3 to 135th St.*

13 ★ Strivers' Row. Hardly a brick has changed among these McKim, Mead & White neo-Italian Renaissance town houses since they were built in 1890. Once the white owners had moved out, the brownstones attracted the cream of Harlem, such "strivers" as Eubie Blake and W. C. Handy. *W. 139th St. (btw. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., and Frederick Douglass blvds.).*

The High Line

The High Line, an abandoned West Side rail line, has been smartly reinvented as an urban park in the last few years. Where freight trains once rumbled along an elevated track and weeds grew wild when the trains stopped running, now a concrete pathway winds through an "integrative landscape" of natural habitats and public art installations, all with Hudson River views. Combine this tour with "Chelsea's Art & Architecture" (p 72) for a leisurely day. START: **Subway A, C, or E to 14th Street.**

The High Line.

1 ★★ **Breakfast in the Meatpacking District.** It's the rare meatpacking truck that muscles down these cobblestoned streets anymore—the neighborhood is chockablock with bistros, boutiques, and bars. It's walkable and very pedestrian-friendly, however. Start your tour with a hearty breakfast at **Pastis** (9 Ninth Ave. at Little W. 12th St.; ☎ 212/929-4844; www.pastisny.com; $$$), in the heart of the neighborhood, or at the **Standard Grill** (848 Washington St. at 13th St.; 212/645-4100; www.thestandardgrill.com; $$$), directly beneath the High Line.

2 **Gansevoort Stair Entry.** The foliage in the **Gansevoort Woodland,** at the top of the stairs, changes with the seasons. In autumn, aromatic aster, smokebush, and winterberry holly dust the paths in purple and red hues. In spring, walkways are pillowed in creamy white serviceberry blossoms. The old track's rusted rails are integrated into the landscaping. ***Btw. Gansevoort & Little W. 12th sts.***

3 ★★★ ***A Bell for Every Minute.*** From the tinkle of a child's toy phone to the joyous peal of the Trinity Church bells, a recording of a different urban bell reverberates in the covered 14th Street Passage every minute. Audio artist Stephen Vitiello created this multichannel sound installation—a deeply affecting sonic quilt of memory and a community's shared soundscape. At the top of the hour, a chorus of bells rings out. ***At 14th St.***

Practical Matters

The High Line is open daily 7am till 10pm in summer (till 8pm in winter); admission is free. Dogs, bicycles, and skateboards are not allowed. Also keep in mind that High Line plantings are at their ripest in spring, summer, and fall.

4 ★★ Diller-Von Furstenberg Sundeck & Water Feature. Grab yourself a wooden chaise and admire the river views. Dip your toes in the scrim of water—a flattened waterfall, if you will—running the length of the sun deck. The bubbling almost drowns out the noise of the traffic. ***Btw. 14th & 15th sts.***

5 ★★★ *The River that Flows Both Ways.* On a single day in 2008, artist Spencer Finch photographed the Hudson River's surface 700 times in 700 minutes, capturing the colors that resulted from the play of light and movement on the water. The result is 700 panes of colored glass (each pane based on a single isolated pixel) arranged chronologically in the steel mullions of the High Line's old loading dock. Just like the river, the colors in the panes shift in the dance of light and shadows. ***Btw. 15th & 16th sts.***

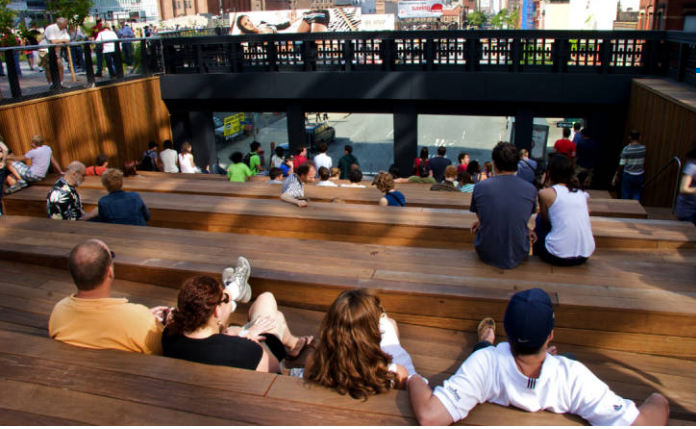
6 ★★ Chelsea Market. An elevator on the east side of the High Line leads to the street. Cross 16th Street to this old Nabisco factory, now an excellent food court. If it's a nice day, get your lunch to go and head back up to the High Line to the Chelsea Market plaza, with tables with river views. ***See p 117.***

7 ★ Tenth Avenue Square & Viewing Platform. Crowds flock to this tiered wooden amphitheater plunked virtually on top of Tenth Avenue. You can stare down the traffic on Tenth through the big picture window—and the folks below can stare up. ***At 17th St.***

8 ★ Chelsea Grasslands. Spring sees daffodils and hundreds of pink-and-white Lady Jane tulips. By late summer prairie grasslands bend in the breeze. Take a seat on the wooden platforms for prime viewing all around. To the east you'll spot the needle spire of the Empire State Building. To the west (btw. 18th and 19th sts.) is Frank Gehry's fanciful IAC office building. Across Eleventh Avenue is the Chelsea Piers sports complex, with the golf driving range atop a Hudson River pier. ***Btw. 17th & 19th sts.***

9 ★ Chelsea Thicket. Opened in 2011, Section 2 of the Highlands begins at 20th Street. This dense planting of flowering shrubs and small trees includes hollies, winterberry, and redbud. ***Btw. 20th & 21st sts.***

10 Seating Steps & Lawn. Here, where extra tracks once served as loading decks for adjacent warehouses, is a 4,900-square-foot swath of turf for sunbathing and picnicking. Stepped seating made of reclaimed teak anchors the southern end. At the northern end, a rise in the lawn lifts visitors above the walkway, with views of Brooklyn to the east and the Hudson River to the west. ***Btw. 22nd & 23rd sts.***



The Tenth Avenue Viewing Platform.

⓫ ★★ **Woodland Flyover.** A dense grove of tall shrubs and trees once grew between the tracks here when the trains stopped running. Today, a metal walkway rises 8 feet above the High Line's path, carrying visitors up into a shady canopy of sumac and magnolia trees. ***Btw. 25th & 26th sts.***

⓬ ★★ **Wildflower Field.** A landscape dominated by tough, drought-resistant grasses and wildflowers took root on the High Line when trains stopped running. The modern-day landscape is planted not only with a variety of blooms but many of the same native species that survived. ***Btw. 26th & 29th sts.***

⓭ ★★ **30th Street Cutout & Viewing Platform.** This clear viewing platform allows visitors to peer down through the grid of steel beams and girders to the traffic passing below on 30th Street. ***At 30th St.***

What Was the High Line?

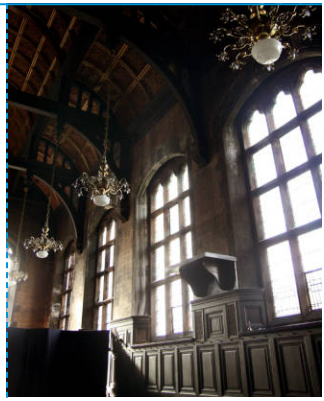
The railroad built America's Wild West, but it also helped build downtown Manhattan, where street-level freight trains chugged along the city's gritty West Side in the mid-1800s. Alas, street traffic proved no match for the brawny locomotives, and Tenth Avenue became known as "Death Avenue" for the glut of gruesome accidents. But it wasn't until 1929 that the city did something about the problem, creating the West Side Improvement Project, which elevated miles of railroad track above the fray. The High Line opened in 1934, running from 34th Street to Spring Street. It bustled along for another 20 or 30 years before interstate trucking put it out of business. In 1999, the preservation of the old rail line entered the collective consciousness when the Friends of the High Line was founded by two neighborhood residents. Ten years later, Section 1 opened to the public. For more information, go to **www.thehighline.org**.

Chelsea's Art & Architecture

In the '80s, New York's art scene was all about SoHo and the East Village, but for a decade now, the best place to browse commercial galleries has been the Chelsea Art District, in the rough-hewn western edges of the neighborhood amid industrial lofts, garages, and repair shops. It's where you'll find the densest concentration of galleries and art-world denizens. This tour is designed to pick up where "The High Line" tour left off. (Simply walk south on Tenth Ave. from the 30th St. exit of the High Line.) START: **Subway C or E to 23rd Street or 14th Street.**

1 ★ Cushman Row. In the late 1830s, much of Chelsea's real estate was developed by a merchant named Don Alonzo Cushman. His little empire included the stunning 1840 Greek Revival houses on West 20th Street between Ninth and Tenth avenues. The houses from no. 406 to no. 418 are better known as Cushman Row (look for the plaque at no. 412). ***406–418 W. 20th St. (btw. Ninth & Tenth aves.).***

2 ★★ The Seminary. Filling up the entire city block, this historic property holds the General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church, the church's oldest seminary, founded in 1817. It's a private working seminary, but visitors can tour the grassy grounds (the land was donated by parishioner Clement Clark Moore), the stunning 1888 **Chapel of the Good Shepherd,** and the vaulted **Refectory** in Hoffman Hall. Built in 1899, the Refectory dining hall has been called "one of New York's most beautiful spaces." Visitors need photo I.D. to enter grounds. ***440 W. 21st St. (btw. Ninth & Tenth aves.).*** ☎ ***212/243-5150. www.gts.edu. Mon–Fri 10am–3pm.***



The Refectory at the General Theological Seminary.

3 ★★★ Gagosian Gallery. This is a must-see. Most of Chelsea's galleries aren't large enough to hold more than one major exhibition at a time, but the white, high-ceilinged rooms in the Gagosian feel like a minimuseum. The gallery pulls off major shows like 2011's acclaimed

Practical Matters

Most galleries in Chelsea are closed on Sundays and Mondays, and many close temporarily (and randomly) for exhibition changes. Call ahead to see who's open. Most are also free.

The Picasso and Marie-Thérèse *exhibition at the Gagosian.*

Picasso and Marie-Thérèse exhibition in 2011. ***522 W. 21st St. (btw. Tenth & Eleventh aves.). ☎ 212/741-1111. www.gagosian.com. Mon–Sat 10am–6pm.***

4 ★★ Gladstone Gallery. Gladstone's sizable roster of American and European artists includes famous names such as German artist Rosemarie Trockel and Keith Haring. A second location is at 515 W. 24th St. ***530 W. 21st St. (btw. Tenth & Eleventh aves.). ☎ 212/206-9300. www.gladstonegallery.com. Tues–Sat 10am–6pm.***

The futuristic entryway of Commes des Garçons.

5 ★ Paula Cooper Gallery. Works by major artists like Carl Andre, Donald Judd, Sol Lewitt, and Jennifer Bartlett can be found in this loftlike space. ***534 W. 21st St. (btw. Tenth & Eleventh aves.). ☎ 212/255-1105. www.paulacoopergallery.com. Tues–Sat 10am–6pm.***

6 ★★ Zack Feuer Gallery. Cutting-edge art and thrilling new artists are the big draw here. ***548 W. 22nd St. (btw. Tenth & Eleventh aves.). ☎ 212/989-7700. www.zachfeuer.com. Tues–Sat 10am–6pm.***

7 ★ The Pace Gallery. This is one of the neighborhood's best-known galleries, so expect to see the work of major artists living and dead—from Chuck Close to Mark Rothko. A recent installation showcased John Chamberlain's painted-metal ode to Renaissance drapery and piles of dirty clothes. Pace has a second Chelsea location at 534 W. 25th Street. ***545 W. 22nd St. (btw. Tenth & Eleventh aves.). ☎ 212/989-4258. www.thepacegallery.com. Tues–Sat 10am–6pm.***

8 ★★ Commes des Garçons. This shop has no number, no signage—just look for the egg-shaped "spaceship" entryway cut into

A Day of Play at Chelsea Piers

All this art and history got your blood going? It may be time to hit the links. Yes, at the massive Chelsea Piers sports complex, you can drive golf balls out over the Hudson River (caught by a giant net, of course) to your heart's content. The views aren't bad either. The complex also has a bowling alley, batting cages, two sundecks, and basketball courts. *23rd St. & Hudson River. ☎ 212/336-6400. www.chelseapiers.com. $25: 90 balls (peak), 147 balls (off-peak); club rentals $4. Oct–Mar 6:30am–11pm; Apr–Sept 6:30am–midnight. Bus: M23; subway: C/E to 23rd St.*

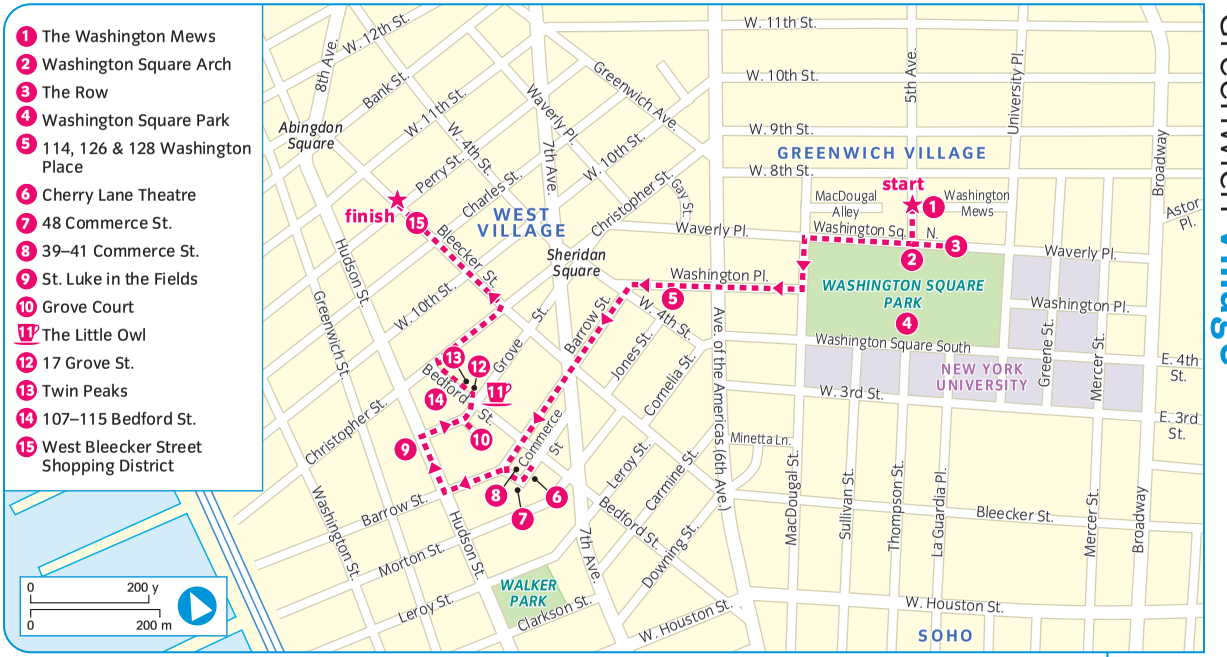
a redbrick facade plastered with peeling posters and graffiti, or the vintage sign reading HEAVENLY BODY WORKS that hovers above the arched doorway. Then pass through the silver aluminum tunnel into a crisp white labyrinth full of designer Rei Kawakubo's ultra-expensive clothing. ***520 W. 22nd St. (btw. Tenth & Eleventh aves.). ☎ 212/604-9200.***

9 ★ **The Half King.** This casual pub has a fine selection of draft and bottled beers and serves an array of burgers—from the salmon crab-cake burger to the venison burger—as well as salads, soups, and comfort dishes like mac 'n' cheese and pot pie. ***505 W. 23rd St. (at Tenth Ave.). ☎ 212/242-4300. http://thehalfking.com. $–$$.***

10 **Chelsea Waterside Park.** Walk off the pub food: Next door to the Chelsea Piers sports complex, Pier 62 has been beautifully landscaped and has a California-style skatepark and a sweet little carousel with hand-carved Hudson Valley woodland creatures. Grounds curve down to the river, where you can sit and take in the glittering Hudson River panorama. ***Across Eleventh Ave. at 23rd St. and West Side Hwy.***

The skatepark at Chelsea Waterside Park.

Greenwich Village



This storied neighborhood has been home to writers, painters, and entertainers for decades. It's also one of Manhattan's most picturesque and historic districts; its small scale, mazelike street plan, and dearth of skyscrapers and industrial space lend it a cozy neighborhood feel. START: **Subway N or R to 8th Street.**

1 ★ The Washington Mews. Visitors who stumble upon this cobbled alleyway discover a living slice of old New York. The north side of the mews consists of original 19th-century stables that were converted into stuccoed houses in pale pastels—in some the stable doors are integrated into the designs. The south side was built in 1939 to mirror the north, but lacks the offbeat grace notes of the original. ***Enter at University Place or Fifth Ave. btw. 8th St. & Waverly Place.***

2 ★ Washington Square Arch. This impressive Roman-style arch, designed by Stanford White, was first built of wood in 1889 to commemorate the centennial anniversary of George Washington's inauguration; the current version was completed in 1891 in white marble. The arch is one of the most important landmarks in lower New York. Over the years it has come to symbolize the neighborhood's spirit of freedom and individuality. ***Fifth Ave. & Waverly Place.***

3 ★★ The Row. These are some of Manhattan's most celebrated town houses, built in elegant Greek Revival style for society's blue bloods from 1832 to 1833. Henry James' heroine in *Washington Square* lived here, as did many memorable characters in Edith Wharton's novels. The town houses at Washington Square North 7–13 have been gutted, with only their facades intact, but the survivors to the west at 19–26 remain more or less whole. ***1–26 Washington Sq. N. (btw. Fifth Ave. & University Place).***

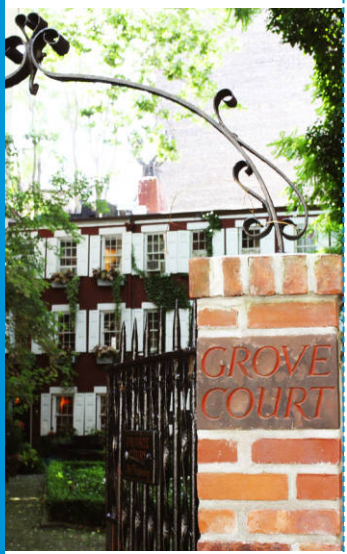
4 Washington Square Park. This relatively small park gets plenty of use (some say overuse) from local residents, New York University students, long-in-the-tooth guitarists, dog-walkers, and assorted street performers. The land on which it was built in the 1820s was once a cemetery for victims of yellow fever, and a centuries-old elm that still stands in the northwest corner of the park was the site of public hangings. These days, the roguish quality persists, but the park has undergone a thorough renovation, and it's never looked better. Centuries-old shade trees form a canopy for wide lawns and densely planted flower meadows. ***Bordered by University & Waverly places and W. 4th & Macdougal sts.***

Lion sculptures guard buildings on Washington Square's Row.

5 114, 126 & 128 Washington Place. Note the fancy boot scrapers on the wrought-iron stair railings from the days when transportation was largely on horseback and the streets were filled with horse manure. As you stroll, you'll spot boot scrapers of varying design all over the Village. ***114 Washington Pl. (btw. Bedford St. & Sixth Ave.).***

6 Cherry Lane Theatre. Writer/poet Edna St. Vincent Millay and her artist peers converted an 1817 box factory into the Cherry Lane Playhouse in 1924. In 1929, legendary acting teacher Lee Strasberg directed F. Scott Fitzgerald's only published full-length play, *The Vegetable,* here. (It closed after 13 performances.) It's still a working theater; call to see what's playing during your visit. ***38 Commerce St. (at Bedford St.).*** ☎ ***212/989-2020. www.cherrylanetheatre.com.***

The private entrance at Grove Court.



7 48 Commerce St. Note the working gas lamp in front of the 1844 home of dry-goods merchant Alexander Stewart. The New York Gas Light Company began laying gas pipes in 1823, and gas lamps—many with an ornamental post design—continued to shine into the 20th century. ***48 Commerce St. (at Barrow St.).***

8 ★★ 39–41 Commerce St. These three-story twin houses are among the most striking examples of early 19th-century architecture in the Village. The fact that they neatly mirror one another heightens the visual appeal. Topped with elegant mansard roofs and linked by a courtyard, nos. 39 and 41 were built in 1831 and 1832, respectively. ***39 Commerce St. (at Barrow St.).***

9 ★ St. Luke in the Fields. This charming little church is a reconstruction of the original, which was built in 1822 and badly damaged by fire in 1981. The site on Hudson Street was donated by Trinity Church, and, from 1891 to 1976, St. Luke's was part of Trinity Parish. One of the church's founding wardens was Clement Clarke Moore, a gentleman scholar perhaps best known as the author of *'Twas the Night Before Christmas.* You're welcome to stroll about the interior and linger in the pretty church gardens (open Tues–Sun 8:30am–dusk). Sunday services at 8, 9:15, and 11:15am. ***487 Hudson St. (at Grove St.).***

10 ★ Grove Court. This charming gated mews set back from the street was once considered a slum; it was built for workingmen around 1853, when it was known as "Mixed Ale Alley." Today, the genteel Greek Revival structures share a large open courtyard—a rarity in a city where space is at a premium. ***10–12 Grove St. (btw. Hudson & Bedford sts.).***

The Little Owl.

11 ★ **The Little Owl.** The quintessential Village boîte—small, candlelit, cozy—comforts with meatball sliders and an American-Mediterranean menu. ***90 Bedford St (at Grove St.). ☎ 212/741-4695. http://thelittleowlnyc.com. $$–$$$.***

12 ★★ **17 Grove St.** This 1822 house is one of the last remaining wood-framed houses in the Village. Note the little 1823 cottage in back (behind the slatted fence) at 100 Bedford St. It was the workshop of the former owner, a sash maker. ***17 Grove St. (at Bedford St.).***

13 **Twin Peaks.** This 1830 house was given a fanciful Tudoresque renovation in 1925. It stands out among the straightforward 19th-century architecture all around it. ***102 Bedford St. (at Grove St.).***

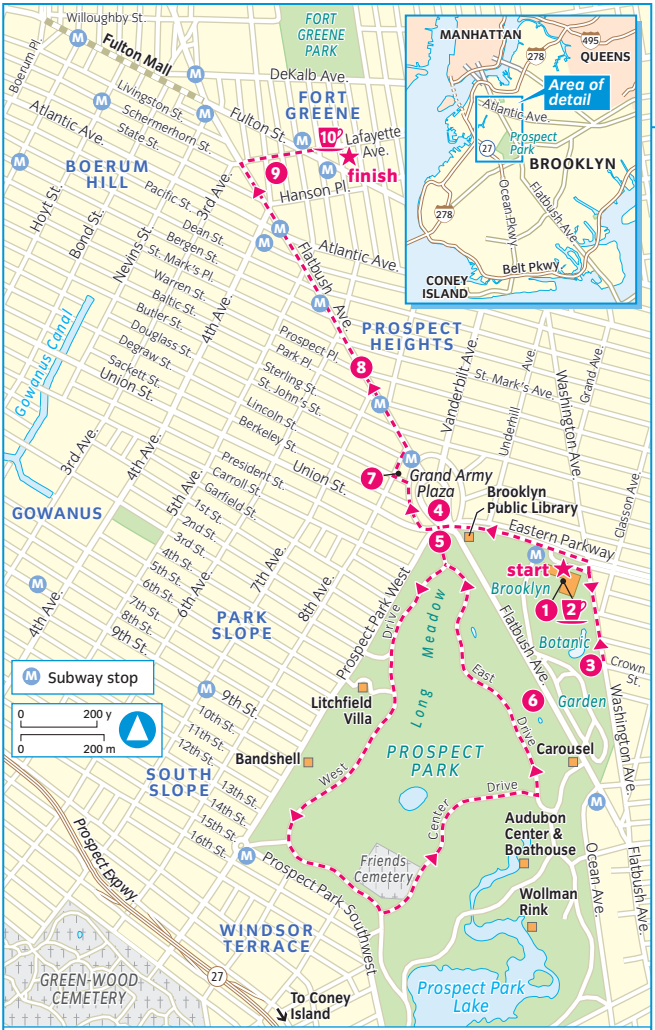
14 **107–115 Bedford St.** These Greek Revival town houses from the mid-1800s have boot scrapers amid the fanciful ironwork. ***107 Bedford St. (at Grove St.).***

15 ★ **West Bleecker Street Shopping District.** West Bleecker Street, from Christopher Street to Bank Street, has become a trendy boutique alley almost overnight. Small-scale and pleasant to stroll, it's now home to **Intermix** (no. 365; ☎ 212/929-7180), **Ralph Lauren** (nos. 380–381; ☎ 212/645-5513), **Marc Jacobs** (nos. 382, 385, 400, and 403–405; ☎ 212/924-6126), **Lulu Guinness** (no. 394; ☎ 212/367-2120), and more. ***West Bleecker St. (btw. Christopher & Bank sts.).***

Boho Ghosts

Nineteenth-century writers such as Mark Twain, Edgar Allan Poe, Henry James, and the painter Winslow Homer first gave the Village its reputation for embracing the unconventional. Groundbreaking artists such as Edward Hopper and Jackson Pollock were drawn in later, as were writers such as Eugene O'Neill, E. E. Cummings, and Dylan Thomas. Radical thinkers from John Reed to Upton Sinclair basked in the neighborhood's liberal ethos, and beatniks Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, and William Burroughs dug the free-swinging vibe.

Prospect Park & Park Slope



1. Brooklyn Museum
2. Museum Cafe
3. Brooklyn Botanic Garden
4. Grand Army Plaza
5. Prospect Park
6. Prospect Park Zoo
7. The Montauk Club
8. Flatbush Avenue
9. BAM Rose Cinemas
10. Stonehome Wine Bar

The attractions in and around Prospect Park are well worth the 25-minute subway ride from midtown Manhattan. Expect gorgeous parkland designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, the city's second largest art museum, plus lovely 19th-century brownstones and hip clothing boutiques. START: **Subway 2 or 3 to Eastern Parkway.**

The Brooklyn Museum.

1 ★★★ kids Brooklyn Museum. In any other city, this spectacular museum would be a star attraction, but in New York it's often overlooked because of its location outside Manhattan. The collection in New York's second-largest museum is well worth a trip though. Highlights include the **ancient Egyptian collection,** the **Asian art collection** (which specializes in both classic and contemporary works from Japan), and the **Luce Center for American Art** (an "open storage" annex holding 9,000 works, from Tiffany lamps to 19th-century furniture by local artisans). Designed by architects McKim, Mead & White in 1897, the museum received a dramatic plaza complete with fountains in 2004. *2–3 hr. 200 Eastern Pkwy. (at Washington Ave.). 718/638-5000. www.brooklynart.org. Admission $10 adults, $6 seniors & students, free for children under 12. Wed–Fri 10am–5pm; Sat–Sun 11am–6pm. Subway: 2/3 to Eastern Pkwy.*

2 Museum Cafe. The ground-floor **eatery** ($) at the Brooklyn Museum is a good place to refuel before you continue. But if the weather's nice, wait until you get to the Botanic Garden (below) and eat at the casual **outdoor cafe** ($) instead.

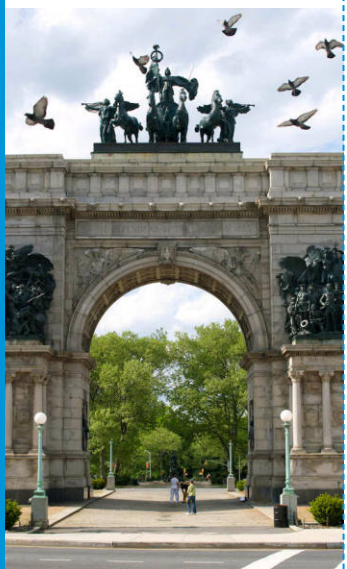
3 ★★★ Brooklyn Botanic Garden. This tranquil, elegant retreat is one of the most beautiful gardens in the city. It encompasses the **Cranford Rose Garden,** a **Children's Garden,** the **Osborne Garden** (3 acres/1.2 hectares of formal gardens), the **Fragrance Garden** (designed for the visually impaired but appreciated by all), and the **Japanese Hill-and-Pond Garden.** In colder weather you can investigate one of the world's largest collections of bonsai in the **C. V. Starr Bonsai Museum,** and indoor plants (everything from cacti to orchids) in the **Steinhardt Conservatory.** If you come in April or May, seek out the lush carpet of bluebells and check the website for the timing of the **Cherry Blossom Festival.** *1–2 hr. 1000 Washington Ave. (at Eastern Pkwy.). 718/623-7200.*

www.bbg.org. Admission $8 adults, $4 seniors & students, free for children under 15. Mar 15–Nov 6 Tues–Fri 8am–6pm, Sat–Sun 10am–6pm; Nov 8–Mar 11 closes 4:30pm.

4 Grand Army Plaza. This multilane traffic circle and the tremendous **Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Arch** presiding over it are reminiscent of Paris's Place Charles de Gaulle and the Arc de Triomphe. The arch was built in 1892 to honor Union soldiers who died in the Civil War. ***Within Plaza St. at the intersection of Flatbush Ave., Prospect Park W., Eastern Pkwy., and Vanderbilt Ave.***

5 ★★★ kids Prospect Park. Central Park designers Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux considered Prospect Park to be their masterpiece. The park has 562 acres (225 hectares) of woodland—including Brooklyn's last remaining virgin forest—plus meadows, bluffs, and ponds. For the best views, enter at Grand Army Plaza and walk

Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Arch at Prospect Park.



to your right either on the park's ring road (called West Dr. here) or on the parallel pedestrian path to Meadowport Arch, and proceed to **Long Meadow.** Overlooking Long Meadow is **Litchfield Villa,** an 1857 mansion that became the headquarters for the New York Parks system. Eventually West Drive turns into Center Drive, which will take you past the **Friends' Cemetery** Quaker burial ground. Center Drive leads to East Drive, which on its way back to Grand Army Plaza passes the 1906 Beaux Arts **boathouse;** the 1912 **carousel;** the **zoo;** and **Lefferts Homestead Children's Historic House Museum** (☎ 718/789-2822), a 1783 Dutch farmhouse with a museum of period furniture and exhibits. ***Bounded by Prospect Park W., Parkside Ave. & Flatbush Ave. ☎ 718/965-8951. www.prospectpark.org.***

6 ★ kids Prospect Park Zoo. Families won't want to miss the zoo at the eastern end of the park. Children in particular take delight in encountering the animals up close, including wallabies and prairie dogs. ***1 hr. ☎ 718/399-7339. http://nyzoosandaquarium.com/ppz. Admission $8 adults, $6 seniors, $5 children 3–12. Mon–Fri 10am–5pm; Sat–Sun 10am–5:30pm (till 4:30 in fall/winter).***

7 ★ The Montauk Club. The northwestern side of Prospect Park is home to the upscale neighborhood of Park Slope, and its tree-lined streets are a great place to spend an afternoon. Many of the late-19th-century brownstones have been lovingly restored (walk along Montgomery Place between Eighth Ave. and Prospect Park W. to see what we mean). If there were an award for most stunning building, it would go to the **Montauk Club,** which was designed in 1891 by architect Francis H. Kimball to

Prospect Park's Boathouse.

resemble a Venetian palace. It's a private club, but hosts many public events throughout the year. ***25 Eighth Ave. (at Lincoln Place).*** ☎ ***718/638-0800.***

8 ★ **Flatbush Avenue.** Shops on Flatbush range from fast-food dives to high-fashion boutiques with prices significantly lower than in Manhattan. **Hooti Couture** at no. 321 (corner of Seventh Ave.; ☎ 718/857-1977; www.hooticouture.com) sells high-quality vintage clothing and accessories. Both international and local clothing designers are on show at **Redberi** at no. 319 (btw. Sterling Ave. & Park Place; ☎ 718/622-1964), making it a great source for unique pieces.

9 **BAM Rose Cinemas.** When this movie theater opened in the Brooklyn Academy of Music (BAM) in 1998 near Fort Green, its art-house movies brought a much-needed cultural boost to the neighborhood. And it couldn't be more accessible: You can catch the 2, 3, 4, 5, B, D, N, R, or Q subway lines back to Manhattan at the Atlantic Avenue station, a couple blocks south of BAM on Flatbush Avenue. ***Peter Jay Sharp Bldg., 30 Lafayette Ave. (btw. Ashland Place & St. Felix St.).*** ☎ ***718/636-4100.***

10 **Stonehome Wine Bar.** This is a pleasant neighborhood place to stop in for drinks or dinner before or after a show at BAM. The seasonal menu may feature butternut squash ravioli, braised Berkshire pork shank, or seared sea scallops. ***87 Lafayette Ave.*** ☎ ***718/624-9443. www.stonehomewinebar.com. $$–$$$.***

The Montauk Club.

Chinatown & The Lower East Side

1. Columbus Park
2. Kimlau War Memorial
3. Lin Sister Herb Shop
4. Doyers Street
5. Edward Mooney House
6. Ping's
7. Mott Street
8. Ten Ren Tea & Ginseng Co.
9. Canal Street
10. Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA)
11. Manhattan Bridge
12. Eldridge Street Synagogue
13. Lower East Side Tenement Museum
14. Orchard Street
15. LES Eats
16. New Museum

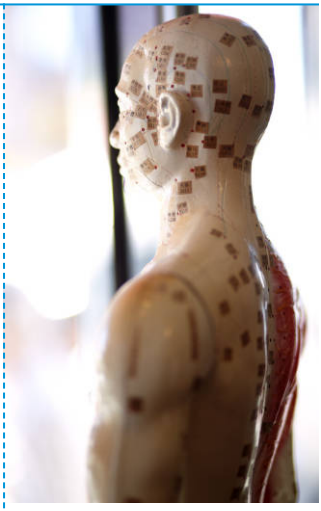
Long known for its vibrant street life, the Lower East Side was also home to notorious slums (including the Five Points) where Irish, Italian, Jewish, and Chinese immigrants crowded into tenements. Although much survives from that era—including a number of tenement buildings—today the neighborhood buzzes with the energy of new restaurants, bars, and live-music clubs. **START: Subway 4, 5, or 6 to Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall.**

1 ★ Columbus Park. This park lies where New York's worst slum, known as Mulberry Bend, once stood surrounded by tenements with names like Bone Alley, Kerosene Row, and Bandits' Roost. Most of the houses were torn down in the early 20th century. The exception was the Chinatown section, which was left alone out of racist fears that the Chinese would move into other neighborhoods. ***Bounded by Mosco, Mulberry, Bayard, and Baxter sts.***

2 Kimlau War Memorial. This memorial arch in Chatham Square was erected in 1962 to honor the Chinese Americans who gave their lives fighting in World War II. The square also contains an imposing statue of Lin Ze Xu, a 19th-century antidrug hero in China. ***Chatham Sq.***

3 ★★ Lin Sister Herb Shop. This three-story apothecary is a marvel. A wall of wooden drawers, each containing medicinal herbs, dominates the first floor. On the upper levels, reflexology massage and acupuncture treatments are offered, and a homeopathic doctor is available for consultations. ***4 Bowery (at Division St.).*** ☎ ***212/962-5417. http://linsister.com.***

4 Doyers Street. As you walk along Bowery, keep an eye out for Doyers Street, a narrow, crooked alleyway. This area was once notorious for activity by gangs known as ***tongs*** (the "activity" was mainly of the violent sort and often involved hatchets, which gave rise to the term "hatchet man"). Doyers Street has a sharp bend in it—locals call it an elbow—which made it impossible to see who was around the corner.



An acupuncture model at the Lin Sister Herb Shop.

5 Edward Mooney House. This Georgian brick structure, painted red, is the oldest row house in the city, dating from George Washington's New York days. Wealthy merchant Edward Mooney had the house built in 1785 on property abandoned by a Tory during the American Revolution. ***18 Bowery (at Pell St.).***

6 ★★ Ping's. Chinatown is famous for its midday dim sum palaces, where servers offer choice little delicacies from carts they wheel around the restaurant floor. Great

for sharing (and a smart economical choice), these morsels often include *har gow* (shrimp dumplings), pork buns, even chicken feet. Among the best is Ping's, with fresh seafood. *22 Mott St. ☎ 212/602-9988. $.*

7 ★ **Mott Street.** This is the heart of old Chinatown, and the epicenter of the boisterous Chinese New Year celebrations that begin with the first full moon after January 21. But it's a great place to wander and shop any time of year. Some addresses to note: **Golden Fung Wong Bakery** at no. 41, for fresh-baked egg tarts or a big bag of fortune cookies to take home; and **Madame Design** at no. 38, for a traditional Chinese cheongsam made out of colorful Chinese silk for around $400.

8 ★ **Ten Ren Tea & Ginseng Co.** The famous Taiwanese tea maker Ten Ren has a particularly charming outpost on Mott Street. Some of the teapots on display are museum-worthy, and the selection of teas is hard to beat. *75 Mott St. (btw. Canal & Bayard sts.). ☎ 212/349-2286. www.tenrenusa.com.*

A paper dragon at MOCA.

9 **Canal Street.** From West Broadway to the Manhattan Bridge, this is one of the city's liveliest and most congested thoroughfares. Stalls hawk everything from "designer" handbags to electronics. **Kam Man,** at no. 200, has a supermarket upstairs (great for candy made in Japan) and a massive collection of ceramics downstairs. Other good bets are **Pearl Paint** (p 102), and **195 Dragon Jewelry** at no. 195 for beautifully carved jade.

10 ★★ kids **Museum of Chinese in America (MOCA).** It is difficult to comprehend the cruel hardships that the first generations of Chinese suffered in New York. Moving into a brand-new space on Centre Street in fall 2008, this museum documents the history and culture of the Chinese in America from the early 1800s to the present. *45 min. 215 Centre St. (btw. Howard & Grand sts.). ☎ 212/619-4785. www.mocanyc.org. Admission $7 adults, $4 seniors & students, under 12 free; free Thurs. Mon & Fri 11am–5pm; Thurs 11am–9pm; Sat–Sun 10am–5pm. Subway: N/R/Q/J/Z/6 to Canal St.*

11 ★ **Manhattan Bridge.** This 1905 suspension bridge may not be as artistically inspired as the Brooklyn Bridge, but the monumental Beaux Arts colonnade and arch at its entrance are quite arresting. *Canal St. & Bowery.*

12 ★★ **Eldridge Street Synagogue.** When it was built by Eastern European Jews in 1887, it was the most magnificent synagogue on the Lower East Side. Its congregation included such luminaries as Eddie Cantor, Jonas Salk, and Edward G. Robinson. Over the years, however, membership declined and the structure fell into disrepair. The rickety interior sanctuary was cordoned off in the 1950s, where it remained empty for

Peking ducks hanging in a Chinatown restaurant's window.

more than 25 years, suffering termite infestation, staircase collapses, and near-total deterioration of the roof, among other indignities. A $20-million renovation project to restore the synagogue to its former glory celebrated its completion in December 2007. Designed by the Herter Brothers, specialists in tenements, the landmark structure is largely enveloped in the daily hustle and bustle of Chinatown life, but its terra-cotta-and-brick Moorish facade still boldly stands out, and the interior decor includes delicate stained-glass rose windows. 🕘 ***20 min. 12 Eldridge St. (btw. Canal & Division sts.). ☎ 212/219-0888. www.eldridgestreet.org. Admission $10 adults, $8 seniors & students; $6 children 5–18, free children under 5 (free Mon). Sun–Thurs 10am–5pm. Subway: B/D to Grand St. or 6/N/R to Canal St.***

⓭ ★★★ kids **Lower East Side Tenement Museum.** Conceived as a monument to the experience of "urban pioneers" in America, this don't-miss museum documents the lives of immigrant residents in a six-story tenement built in 1863 at 97 Orchard St. (accessible only via the highly recommended guided tours). The tenement rooms are eerily authentic, and for good reason: 97 Orchard was essentially boarded up from 1935 to 1987; when it was finally opened, everything was exactly as it had been left in 1935, a virtual time capsule of tenement life. Artifacts found range from the mundane (medicine tins and Russian cigarettes) to the personal (a 1922 Ouija board and an infant's button-up shoe). Among several tours to choose from, the living-history **Confino Family Tour** tells of the hard-scrabble life that many immigrants faced in the late 19th and early 20th

Eldridge Street Synagogue.

centuries. Book your visit online at least a week in advance—this is one of New York's most popular museums. 🕘 *1–1½ hr. 108 Orchard St. (Delancey St.).* ☎ *212/431-0233. www.tenement.org. Tours $20 adults, $15 seniors & students. Tours daily 10:30am–5pm. Subway: B/D to Grand St. or F to Delancey.*

14 **Orchard Street.** In the 19th century, this street was a vast outdoor marketplace lined with rows of pushcarts. Today, stores have replaced the pushcarts, but in the spirit of tradition, many shop owners are willing to haggle over prices. You can also discover the stylish little boutiques and cafes that have sprung up in the neighborhood. It's a brand-new melting pot. On Sundays the street is closed to vehicular traffic between Delancey and Houston streets. Keep in mind that many of the shops are closed Friday afternoon and Saturday for the Jewish Sabbath. Stop in at the **Lower East Side Visitor Center** at 54 Orchard St. (☎ 212/226-9010; www.lowereastsideny.com) for maps and more information. Then wander Orchard Street between Rivington and Grand streets and check out the array of stores, both old and new. You'll come across old-timers like **Zarin Fabrics** (314 Grand; ☎ 212/925-6112; www.harryzarin.com), which offers beautiful fabrics and trims; and **Altman Luggage** (135 Orchard St.; ☎ 212/254-7275), which has been selling quality luggage at good prices since 1920.

15 **LES Eats.** Meat eaters should make a beeline for the Dagwood-style pastrami sandwiches at **Katz's Delicatessen** (p 119). Vegetarians can make their way to musician Moby's **Teany Cafe** (90 Rivington St., btw. Ludlow & Orchard sts.; ☎ 212/475-9190; $) for soups, salads, sandwiches, and teas. Beer lovers should head to **Spitzer's Corner** (101 Rivington, at Ludlow St.; ☎ 212/228-0027; $$) for delicious gastropub food and craft beers.

16 **New Museum.** This 30-year-old collection of contemporary art now resides in an off-kilter stack of aluminum mesh cubes, designed by Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa, teetering over the Bowery's brick tenements. Don't miss the view of the neighborhood from the 7th-floor observation deck, open to the public on weekends. 🕘 *1½ hrs. 235 Bowery (at Prince btw. Stanton and Rivington sts.).* ☎ *212/219-1222. www.newmuseum.org. Admission $12 adult, $10 seniors, $8 students, 18 and under free; free for all Thurs 7–9pm. Wed & Fri–Sun 11am–6pm; Thurs 11am–10pm. Subway: 6 to Spring St; N/R to Prince St.* ●

Hats on display on Orchard Street.

5 The Best **Shopping**

Shopping **Best Bets**

Best **Food Store**
Eataly, *200 Fifth Ave. (p 98)*

Best **Place to Deck Out Your Dream House**
ABC Carpet & Home, *881 & 888 Broadway (p 100)*

Best **Footwear**
Jeffrey New York, *449 W. 14th St. (p 97)*

Best **All-Around Department Store**
Bloomingdale's, *1000 Third Ave. (p 95)*

Best **Browsing**
MoMA Store, *44 W. 53rd St. (p 99)*
Pearl River, *477 Broadway (p 100)*

Best **Toy Store**
Playing Mantis, *32 N. Moore St. (p 102)*

Best **Men's Designer Clothes**
Bergdorf Goodman for Men, *754 Fifth Ave. (p 95)*

Best **Women's Designer Clothes**
Bergdorf Goodman, *754 Fifth Ave. (p 95)*

Best **Clothing Boutique**
Opening Ceremony, *35 Howard St. (p 97)*
Kisan Concept Store, *125 Greene St. (p 97)*

Best **Cheap & Trendy Clothes**
Topshop, *478 Broadway (p 97)*
UNIQLO, *546 Broadway (p 97)*

Best **Vintage Jewelry**
Pippin, *72 Orchard St. (p 100)*

Best **Wine & Liquor**
Sherry-Lehmann, *679 Madison Ave. (p 98)*

Best **Deals on Electronics**
J&R Music & Computer World, *23 Park Row (p 96)*

Best **Stationery**
Kate's Paperie, *411 Lafayette St. (p 102)*

Best **Art Supplies**
Pearl Paint, *308 Canal St. (p 102)*

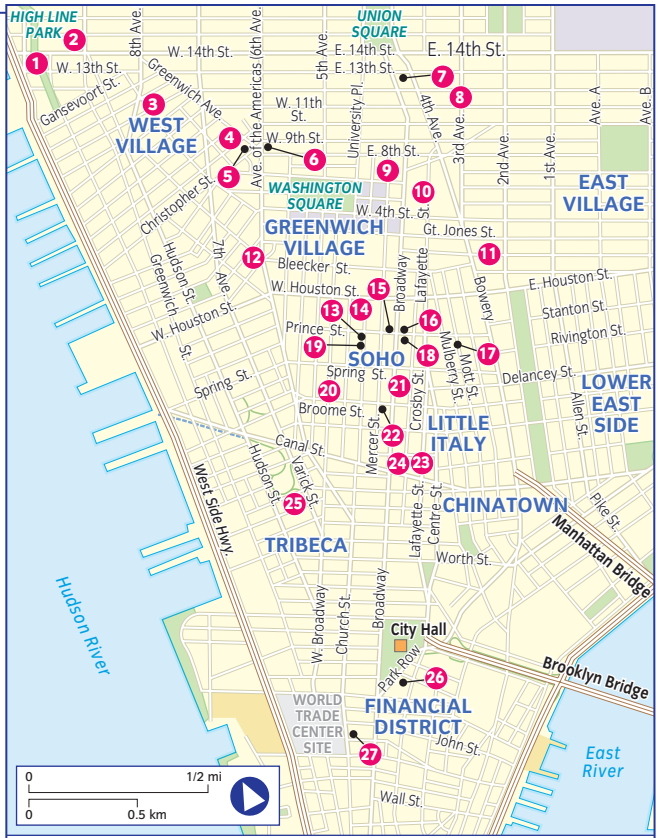
Best **Beauty Products**
C. O. Bigelow, *414 Sixth Ave. (p 94)*

Sales Tax Lowdown

The sales tax in New York City is 8.875% (4.5% for city sales tax, 4% for New York State tax, plus an additional surcharge), but clothing and footwear items under $110 are exempt from the New York City portion (4.5%). No sales tax at all is charged for clothing and footwear items under $55. As with any shipped purchase, be sure to get proper documentation of the sale and keep the receipts handy until the merchandise arrives at your door.

Previous page: A moosehead ceramic at MacKenzie-Childs.

Downtown Shopping



Aedes De Venustas **5**
Anthropologie **20**
Bleecker St. Records **12**
Broadway Panhandler **9**
C. O. Bigelow **6**
Century 21 **27**
Dean & DeLuca **16**
Fragments **13**
J&R Music & Computer World **26**
Jeffrey New York **2**
John Derian Company **11**
Kate's Paperie **10**
Kiehl's **8**
Kisan Concept Store **14**
Le Fanion **3**
Opening Ceremony **23**
Pearl Paint **24**
Pearl River **22**
Playing Mantis **25**
Prada **15**
Scoop **1**
Sigerson Morrison **17**
Space NK **19**
The Strand **7**
Three Lives & Co. **4**
Topshop **21**
UNIQLO **18**

Midtown & Uptown Shopping

- ABC Carpet & Home 10
- B&H Photo & Video 5
- Barnes & Noble 9
- Barneys New York 27
- Bergdorf Goodman 23
- Bloomingdale's 26
- Colony Music Center 2
- The Diamond District 14
- Drama Book Shop 4
- Eataly 12
- FAO Schwarz 24
- Fishs Eddy 11
- Harry's Shoes 1
- Henri Bendel 19
- Jazz Record Center 6
- MacKenzie-Childs 21
- Macy's 13
- Manolo Blahnik 18
- Metropolitan Museum of Art Store 15
- MoMA Store 17
- Pippin Vintage Jewelry 7
- Rizzoli 22
- Saks Fifth Avenue 16
- Sherry-Lehmann 25
- Tiffany & Co. 20
- Toys "R" Us 3
- Union Square Greenmarket 8
- Zabar's 1

0 1/4 mi
0 0.25 km
Transverse
Center Drive
PARK
East Drive
The Pond
Fifth Ave.
UPPER EAST SIDE
E. 66th St.
E. 65th St.
E. 64th St.
E. 63rd St.
E. 62nd St.
E. 61st St.
York Ave.
Roosevelt Island Tram
E. 60th St.
Madison Ave.
E. 59th St.
Queensboro Bridge
E. 58th St.
E. 57th St.
Sutton Pl.
E. 56th St.
Sutton Pl. South
E. 55th St.
E. 54th St.
E. 53rd St.
E. 52nd St.
E. 51st St.
St. Patrick's Cathedral
MIDTOWN EAST
Beekman Place
ROCKEFELLER CENTER
E. 50th St.
Mitchell Place
E. 49th St.
E. 48th St
E. 47th St.
Fifth Ave.
Madison Ave.
Park Ave.
Lexington Ave.
Third Ave.
First Ave.
FDR Drive
E. 46th St.
E. 45th St.
Sixth Ave. (Ave. of the Americas)
Vanderbilt Ave.
Grand Central Terminal
E. 44th St.
E. 43rd St.
Second Ave.
UNITED NATIONS
E. 42nd St.
Bryant Park
New York Public Library
E. 41st St.
Queens-Midtown Tunnel
E. 40th St
E. 39th St
MURRAY HILL
E. 38th St
E 37th St.
E 36th St.
E. 35th St.
E. 34th St.
Empire State Building
E. 33rd St.
W 32nd St.
Broadway
Park Ave. S.
E. 32nd St.
E. 31st St.
E. 30th St.
E. 29th St.
Fifth Ave.
Madison Ave.
Second Ave.
First Ave.
E. 28th St.
E. 27th St.
E. 26th St.
Madison Square Park
E. 25th St.
E. 24th St.
Lexington Ave.
Asser Levy Pl.
Ave. C
East River
Flatiron Building
E. 23rd St.
E. 22nd St.
PETER COOPER VILLAGE
E. 21st St.
FLATIRON DISTRICT
Gramercy Park
GRAMERCY PARK
E. 20th St.
E. 19th St.
E. 18th St.
E. 17th St.
STUYVESANT TOWN
Union Square
Union Sq. W.
Union Sq. E.
Irving Pl.
E. 16th St.
N.D. Perlman Pl.
E. 15th St.
E. 14th St.
Sixth Ave. (Ave. of the Americas)
Fifth Ave.

New York **Shopping A to Z**

Beauty/Apothecary

★★ **C. O. Bigelow** GREENWICH VILLAGE Its motto, "If you can't get it anywhere else, try Bigelow's," is right on the money. This 162-year-old apothecary carries the brands you can't find anywhere, plus its own excellent house label of personal-care products. *414 Sixth Ave. (btw. 8th & 9th sts.). ☎ 212/533-2700. www.bigelowchemists.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: A/C/E/F/M to W. 4th St.*

★ **Kiehl's** EAST VILLAGE This 150-year-old apothecary developed its own line of beauty products over the years and drew a cultish following among the fashion crowd. The free product samples added to its quirky charm. Formerly family-run, Kiehl's has been owned by L'Oreal since 2000. *109 Third Ave. (btw. 13th & 14th sts.). ☎ 212/677-3171. www.kiehls.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Subway: 4/5/6 to Union Sq.*

★ **Space NK** SOHO This British-based shop has culled the best of the best product lines and put them all in a soothing environment. It has added locations on the Upper West Side and Upper East Side, as well as a space in Bloomingdale's (p 95). *99 Greene St. (btw. Prince & Spring sts.). ☎ 212/941-4200. www.spacenk.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: N/R to Prince St. or 6 to Spring St.*

C. O. Bigelow.

Books

★★ **Barnes & Noble Union Square** UNION SQUARE This red-brick, terra-cotta relic from 1881 holds one of the chain's most impressive Manhattan stores. *Century* magazine was published here before the turn of the 20th century. *33 E. 17th St. (btw. Broadway & Park Ave.). ☎ 212/253-0810. www.bn.com. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 4/5/6 to Union Sq.*

★ **Drama Book Shop** THEATER DISTRICT The play's the thing, and this little performing-arts bookstore sells thousands of plays, from Greek tragedies to this year's hits. *250 W. 40th St. (btw. Eighth & Ninth aves.). ☎ 212/944-0595. www.dramabookshop.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: A/C/E to 42nd St.*

★★ **Rizzoli** MIDTOWN WEST This gorgeous bookstore is an atmospheric place to browse for high-end visual art and design books, plus quality fiction and gourmet cookbooks. *31 W. 57th St. (btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.). ☎ 212/759-2424. www.rizzoliusa.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: N/R to Fifth Ave.*

★★ **The Strand** UNION SQUARE This local legend is worth a visit for the staggering "18 miles of books" and bargain titles that slash up to 85% off list price. *828 Broadway (at 12th St.). ☎ 212/473-1452. www.*

Barneys' chic-modern window display.

strandbooks.com. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: L/N/R/4/5/6 to Union Sq.

★★ **Three Lives & Co.** GREENWICH VILLAGE This cozy, independent store has good stock and a knowledgeable staff. ***154 W. 10th St. (near Seventh Ave.). ☎ 212/741-2069. http://threelives.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Subway: 1 to Christopher St.***

Department Stores

★ **Barneys New York** MIDTOWN EAST This smart-looking store is always on the cutting edge of fashion; check out Barneys Co-op (with locations in SoHo, Chelsea, and the Upper West Side) for less pricey designers and solid house brands. ***660 Madison Ave. (at 61st St.). ☎ 212/826-8900. www.barneys.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: N/R to Fifth Ave.***

★★ **Bergdorf Goodman** MIDTOWN The place for ladies who lunch and anyone who reveres couture and clothes built to last. It's pricey, but the sales are terrific. The **men's store** across the street (754 Fifth Ave.) has a great selection. ***754 Fifth Ave. (at 57th St.). ☎ 212/753-7300. www.bergdorfgoodman.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Subway: E/F to Fifth Ave.***

★★ **Bloomingdale's** MIDTOWN EAST Packed to the gills with goods, Bloomie's is more accessible and affordable than Barneys, Bergdorf, or Saks. ***1000 Third Ave. (Lexington Ave. at 59th St.). ☎ 212/705-2000. www.bloomingdales.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: 4/5/6 to 59th St.***

★ **Henri Bendel** MIDTOWN Set inside a gorgeous landmark building, this is the place for grownup girls who love the funky and the frilly. The makeup section is one of the best in the city. ***712 Fifth Ave. (btw. 55th & 56th sts.). ☎ 212/247-1100. www.henribendel.com. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: N/R to Fifth Ave.***

Macy's HERALD SQUARE The size is unmanageable and the service is clueless, but they do sell *everything*. And *everything* goes on sale. This is where to come to get a seriously stylish—and seriously marked-down—winter coat in the January sales. ***151 W. 34th St. (at Broadway). ☎ 212/695-4400. www.macys.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: B/D/F/N/Q/R/1/2/3/9 to 34th St.***

★ **Saks Fifth Avenue** MIDTOWN This legendary flagship store is a classic. It stocks big-name designers in fashion, accessories, and cosmetics,

all with price tags to match. Look for smartly priced house brands on the 4th and 5th floors. *611 Fifth Ave. (btw. 49th & 50th sts.). ☎ 212/753-4000. www.saksfifthavenue.com. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: B/D/F/Q to 47th–50th sts./Rockefeller Center; E/F to Fifth Ave.*

Electronics

★ **B&H Photo & Video** GARMENT DISTRICT This camera superstore has everything from lenses to darkroom equipment. ***Note:*** It's closed on Saturdays. *420 Ninth Ave. (at 34th St.). ☎ 800/606-6969. www.bhphotovideo.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: A/C/E to 34th St.*

★ **J&R Music & Computer World** FINANCIAL DISTRICT This is the city's top computer, electronics, small appliance, and office equipment retailer. *23 Park Row (at Ann St., opposite City Hall Park). ☎ 800/806-1115 or 212/238-9000. www.jr.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 2/3 to Park Place; 4/5/6 to Brooklyn Bridge/City Hall.*

Fashion

★ **Anthropologie** SOHO This chain sells funky, slightly exotic, and affordable women's clothing and accessories—not to mention original and very stylish housewares and gifts at good prices. *375 W. Broadway (btw. Spring & Broome sts.). ☎ 212/343-7070. www.anthropologie.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: C/E to Spring St.*

The Prada store in SoHo.

★ **Century 21** FINANCIAL DISTRICT It's easy to become addicted to the seriously discounted designer clothes here, but don't expect to be pampered or bathed in flattering lighting. And avoid around noontime, when lunchtime working stiffs crowd the aisles in pursuit of men's, women's, and children's clothing. *22 Cortlandt St. (btw. Broadway & Church St.). ☎ 212/227-9092. www.c21stores.com. AE, MC, V. Subway:*

Discounts on everything at Century 21.

1/2/3/4/5/M to Fulton St.; A/C to Broadway/Nassau St.; E to Chambers St.

★★ **Jeffrey New York** MEATPACKING DISTRICT This outpost of the famed Atlanta megaboutique may be pricey as all get out, but the staff is warm and friendly. The fantastic shoe selection makes it a worthy schlep for style hounds. *449 W. 14th St. (at 10th Ave.). ☎ 212/206-1272. www.jeffreynewyork.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: A/C/E/L to 14th St.*

★★ **Kisan Concept Store** SOHO Arriving from Paris by way of Iceland, this shop sells not only "high-street" European-branded women's wear but art books, shoes, a sprinkling of men's items, and a breathtaking selection of fine kids' clothes. *125 Greene St. (btw. Prince & Houston sts.). ☎ 212/475-2470. www.kisanstore.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: R/W to Prince St.*

★★ **Opening Ceremony** CHINATOWN/SOHO For many the top clothing boutique in the city, Opening Ceremony has fun, cutting-edge designs from all over the world, plus a house line that is smart, good-looking, and eminently wearable. It also has a location in the Ace Hotel. *35 Howard St. (near Broadway). ☎ 212/219-2688. www.openingceremony.us. AE, MC, V. Subway: N/R/6 to Canal St.*

★ **Prada** SOHO The sleek, chic Italian trendsetter occupies a spectacular space designed by architect Rem Koolhaas. *575 Broadway (at Prince St.). ☎ 212/334-8888. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: N/R to Prince St.*

★ **Scoop** MEATPACKING DISTRICT Ever wonder what a fashion editor's closet looks like? Probably like this small women's clothing chain—a collection of pieces from a variety of designers whose work is fashion-forward but not so cutting edge as to be unwearable. *873 Washington St. (btw. 13th & 14th sts.). ☎ 212/929-1244. www.scoopnyc.com. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: A/C/E to 14th St.*

★ **Topshop** SOHO Your teenagers may drag you to this British megastore, but don't despair: Shopping at Topshop is delicious fun. Yes, the rock-star element is here, from fringed suede to Edwardian puffy shirts, but so are wearable separates like smartly tailored boyfriend jackets and on-trend variations on the little black dress. And the stuff is priced to move! *478 Broadway (near Spring St.). ☎ 212/966-9555. www.topshop.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. 6 to Spring St.; N/R to Canal St.*

★ **UNIQLO** SOHO The city's only permanent UNIQLO location is always packed with savvy shoppers. Known as Japan's answer to the Gap, UNIQLO specializes in smartly constructed, wearable separates—like the perfect black cotton V-neck

Heaven for neat freaks: UNIQLO.

Union Square Greenmarket.

shirt, a bargain at $16. ***546 Broadway (at Prince St.). ☎ 917/237-8800. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: N/R to Prince St.; 6 to Spring St.***

Food & Wine

★★ Dean & DeLuca SOHO This place has everything—from excellent cheese, meat, fish, and dessert counters to fresh sushi and luscious prepared foods. ***560 Broadway (at Prince St.). ☎ 212/226-6800. www.dean-deluca.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: N/R to Prince St.***

Eataly's La Piazza wine bar.

★★ Eataly FLATIRON DISTRICT You can dine in at this dynamic Italian-centric marketplace or you can shop to your heart's content. Take home armloads of good Italian pastas, olive oils and vinegars, fresh mozzarella, pastries, coffee, books, wine, and beer. ***200 Fifth Ave. (at 23rd St.). ☎ 212/229-2560. http://eatalyny.com. AE, MC, V. Market: Daily 10am–11pm. Restaurants: Daily lunch & dinner. Subway: N/R/6 to 23rd St.***

★★ Sherry-Lehmann UPPER EAST SIDE One of the city's best selections of wine has moved to a new three-story store on Park Avenue after 60 years on Madison Avenue—but it still has the same savvy staff. ***505 Park Ave. (btw. 59th & 60th sts.). ☎ 212/838-7500. www.sherry-lehmann.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: N/R to Lexington Ave.; 4/5/6 to 59th St.***

★★ **Union Square Greenmarket** UNION SQUARE At Manhattan's largest farmer's market, you'll find fresh produce from upstate and New Jersey farms, fish just off the boat from Long Island, artisanal cheeses and home-cured meats, plants, and organic herbs and spices. We've seen celebrated chefs arrive here with wheelbarrows in tow. Open year-round Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays during daylight hours. *In Union Sq. ☎ 212/477-3220. www.cenyc.org. No credit cards. Subway: 4/5/6/N/Q/R/W to Union Sq.*

★★ **Zabar's** UPPER WEST SIDE The one-and-only Zabar's is the place to go for great smoked salmon and all the works—not to mention terrific prepared foods, gourmet edibles, coffees, cheeses, you name it. *2245 Broadway (at 80th St.). ☎ 212-496-1234. www.zabars.com. AE, DC, MC, V. Subway: 1/9 to 79th St.*

Gifts

★★ **John Derian Company** EAST VILLAGE Fabulous decoupage items, colorful candleholders handmade in Paris, and terra-cotta pottery are but a few of the delicious treats here. *6 E 2nd St. (btw. Second Ave. & the Bowery). ☎ 212/677-3917. www.johnderian.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: 6 to Bleecker St., F/M to Second Ave.*

★★ **Le Fanion** GREENWICH VILLAGE Beautiful French Country pottery in a charming Village shop. *299 W. 4th St. (at Bank St.). ☎ 212/463-8760. www.lefanion.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: 1/9/2/3 at 14th St.*

★ **MacKenzie-Childs** MIDTOWN Whimsy in a teacup. Colorful, artisanal dinnerware, hand-painted furniture, and home furnishings in a delightful store. *14 W. 57th St. (at Fifth Ave.). ☎ 212/570-5070. www.mackenzie-childs.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: N/R to Fifth Ave.*

★★ **Metropolitan Museum of Art Store** UPPER EAST SIDE Great for reproduction jewelry, china, books, toys, textiles, and objets d'art from the Met's collection. See the website for branch locations. *15 W. 49th St. (at Rockefeller Center). ☎ 212/332-1360. www.metmuseum.org/store. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: B/D/F/M to 47th–50th sts./Rockefeller Center.*

★★★ **MoMA Store** MIDTOWN The Museum of Modern Art store

Shabby chic at MacKenzie-Childs.

ABC Carpet & Home.

stocks fabulous, unique gifts, from silk scarves with Frank Lloyd Wright designs to Eames chairs. The Christmas ornaments are gorgeous. See website for branch locations. ***44 W. 53rd St. (btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.). ☎ 212/767-1050. www.momastore.org. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: E/M to Fifth Ave./53rd St.***

★★ **Pearl River** SOHO We love browsing this store, stocked with Asian clothing, housewares, foods, and gifts. ***477 Broadway (Grand St.). ☎ 212/431-4770. www.pearlriver.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: N/R to Canal St.***

Home Design & Housewares

★★★ **ABC Carpet & Home** FLATIRON DISTRICT This magical two-building emporium is legendary, and it deserves to be: It's the ultimate home fashions and furnishings store, with everything from zillion-thread-count sheets to magical children's furniture. ***881 & 888 Broadway (at 19th St.). ☎ 212/473-3000. www.abchome.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: L/N/R/4/5/6 to 14th St./Union Sq.***

★ **Broadway Panhandler** GREENWICH VILLAGE Cooks will love browsing for professional-quality cookware in this longtime favorite, now in its new location. ***65 E. 8th St. (btw. Broadway & University Place). ☎ 866/266-5927. www.broadwaypanhandler.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: N/R to 8th St.***

Fishs Eddy FLATIRON DISTRICT Come here for vintage and reproduction dishes, flatware, and glasses. ***889 Broadway (at 19th St.). ☎ 212/420-9020. www.fishseddy.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: L/N/R/4/5/6 to 14th St./Union Sq.***

Jewelry & Precious Stones

The Diamond District MIDTOWN This is the heart of the city's diamond trade, though many of the merchants deal in semiprecious stones, too. If you know your four *C*'s, it's a great place to get a deal on diamonds; if you don't, stick with window-shopping. Most shops are open Monday to Friday only. ***47th St. (btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.). Subway: B/D/F/M to Rockefeller Center.***

★ **Fragments** SOHO Looking for original pieces? Fragments sells jewelry by more than 100 artists working in various mediums. Prices vary dramatically, starting at $50 and spiking above $20,000. ***116 Prince St. (btw. Greene & Wooster sts.). ☎ 212/334-9588. www.fragments.com. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: C/E to Spring St.***

★ **Pippin Vintage Jewelry** CHELSEA From stately pearls to funky Bakelite, this gem of a shop carries it all. The news is that Pippin has moved from the Lower East Side to Chelsea and opened **Pippin Home,** a small shop selling antiques and home furnishings, behind the jewelry store. ***112 W. 17th St. (btw. Sixth & Seventh aves.).***

☎ *212/505-5159. AE, MC, V. Subway: A/E to 14th St.*

★★ **Tiffany & Co.** MIDTOWN Deservedly famous, this iconic multilevel store carries jewelry, watches, tableware and stemware, and a variety of gift items. Love the silver yo-yo! *727 Fifth Ave. (at 57th St.).* ☎ *212/755-8000. www.tiffany.com. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: N/R to Fifth Ave.*

Music

★ **Bleecker Street Records** GREENWICH VILLAGE The well-organized CD and LP collections include rock, jazz, folk, blues, and punk. *239 Bleecker St. (at Carmine St.).* ☎ *212/255-7899. AE, MC, V. Subway: A/C/E/F/M to W. 4th St.*

Colony Music Center TIMES SQUARE This nostalgia emporium is filled with a pricey but excellent collection of vintage vinyl and new CDs (sheet music and theater posters, too). *1619 Broadway (at 49th St.).* ☎ *212/265-2050. www.colonmusic.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: N/R to 49th St.; 1/9 to 50th St.*

★ **Jazz Record Center** CHELSEA This is the place to find rare and out-of-print jazz records. *236 W. 26th St., Room 804 (btw. Seventh & Eighth aves.).* ☎ *212/675-4480. www.jazzrecordcenter.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: 1/9 to 28th St.*

Perfumes/Scents

★★ **Aedes De Venustas** GREENWICH VILLAGE Evoking a romantic boudoir out of the Victorian era, this whimsical spot offers exotic and hard-to-find scents. *9 Christopher St. (at Gay St.).* ☎ *212/206-8674. www.aedes.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: 1/9 to Christopher St.*

Shoes

★ **Harry's Shoes** UPPER WEST SIDE This old-school shoe store doesn't sell sex (à la Manolo); it sells shoes. Great selection of comfortable styles. **Harry's Shoes for Kids** is a half-block away at 2315 Broadway. *2299 Broadway (at 83rd St.).* ☎ *866/489-0984. http://harrysshoes.reachlocal.net. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 1/9 to 79th St. or 86th St.*

★★ **Manolo Blahnik** MIDTOWN WEST These wildly sexy women's shoes could turn anyone into a foot fetishist. *31 W. 54th St. (btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.).* ☎ *212/582-3007. AE, MC, V. Subway: E/F to Fifth Ave.*

Fishs Eddy's New York–centric designs.

A dinosaur at Toys "R" Us in Times Square.

★ **Sigerson Morrison** NOLITA Very modern shoes with clever retro detailing. *28 Prince St. (btw. Mott & Elizabeth sts.). ☎ 212/219-3893. www.sigersonmorrison.com. AE, MC, V. Subway: B/D/F/Q to Broadway/Lafayette St.; N/R to Prince St.; 6 to Spring St.*

Stationery & Art Supplies

★ **Kate's Paperie** SOHO It's fun just to browse the exquisite and high-priced paper products at Kate's. There's also a small branch in the Time Warner Center at 10 Columbus Circle. *411 Lafayette St. (btw. Astor Place & 4th St.). ☎ 212/941-9816. www.katespaperie.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 4/5/6 to Astor Place; N/R to 8th St.*

★ **Pearl Paint** CHINATOWN All the cool art school students shop at this vintage Canal Street store. It's hands-down New York's best discount art-supply store. *308 Canal St. (btw. Broadway & Mercer sts.). ☎ 800/451-7327. www.pearlpaint.com. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: N/R to Canal St.*

Toys

★★ kids **FAO Schwarz** MIDTOWN It gets crowded during the holidays and the music can drive you nuts. But it's the mother lode of toys in New York—and the store-within-a-store toy boutiques are adorable. *767 Fifth Ave. (at 59th St.). ☎ 212/644-9400. www.fao.com. Subway: N/R/W to Fifth Ave. & 59th St.*

★★ kids **Playing Mantis** TRIBECA It sells "toys for life," beautiful creations crafted from natural materials: wood-carved fairy woodland houses, hand-hewn musical instruments, and other remarkable finds. *32 N. Moore St. (btw. Hudson & Varick sts.). ☎ 646/484-6845. www.friendlymantis.com. Subway: 1 to Franklin St.*

kids **Toys "R" Us** TIMES SQUARE Check out the T-Rex on the second floor and take a spin on the Ferris wheel if you can tear your kids away from the lavish toy displays. *1514 Broadway (at 44th St.). ☎ 800/869-7787. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 1/2/3/7/9/A/C/E/N/Q/R/S to 42nd St.* ●

6 The Great **Outdoors**

Central Park

Previous page: Central Park's Bethesda Fountain.

Often called Manhattan's backyard, Central Park is all that and far more. It's a vibrant 843-acre (337-hectare) masterpiece that was carved from a muddy swamp and squatters' camp in the 1850s by landscape architects Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux. Today thousands of residents and visitors alike flock here to stroll, run, bike, row boats, picnic, and play. **START: Subway 2 or 3 to Central Park North.**

1 Harlem Meer. This 11-acre (4.4-hectare) *meer* (the Dutch word for lake) wasn't part of the original Central Park. Added in 1863, it has a natural, rugged shoreline and a community of swans. The **Charles A. Dana Discovery Center** (☎ 212/860-1370), on the northern shore, contains a year-round visitor center and hosts Central Park Conservancy seasonal exhibitions, community programs, and holiday celebrations in its Great Hall. ***Fifth Ave. from 106th–110th sts.***

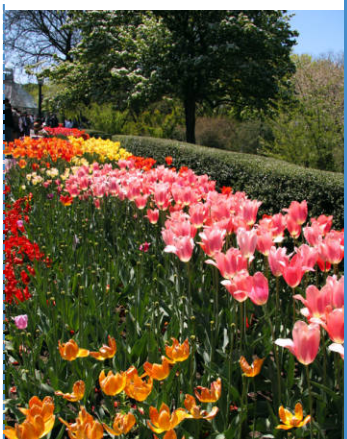
2 ★★ Conservatory Garden. This formal garden was commissioned by the WPA (Work Projects Administration) in 1936. Its showpieces are many: an elegant Italian garden built around a classical fountain, a mazelike English garden, a bronze statue of the children from the novel *The Secret Garden* standing in a reflecting pool. In summer, water lilies float in the pool, and flowering plants and shrubs fill the garden. To reach the Reservoir (see below) from here, walk south through the park or, to save a mile of walking, take any bus down Fifth Avenue and get off at 86th Street. ***Fifth Ave. & 105th St.***

3 The Reservoir. Created in 1862 as part of the Croton Water System, the Reservoir was in use until 1994. Occupying 106 acres (42 hectares) and extending the width of the park, it is surrounded by bridle and running paths. Many a celebrity (Jackie O, Madonna) and civilian has jogged along the 1.6-mile (2.6km) upper track, which overlooks the reservoir and affords great skyline views. The reservoir holds a billion gallons of water, is 40 feet (12m) at its greatest depth, and these days is only used as an emergency backup water supply. Walk along the path behind the Metropolitan Museum of Art to reach the Obelisk. ***Midpark from 85th–96th sts.***

4 ★★ The Obelisk. This 71-foot (21m) artifact from Ancient Egypt was an 1881 gift to the U.S. from the khedive of Egypt. ***See p 12.***

5 ★ The Great Lawn. Expansive enough for simultaneous games of softball, volleyball, or soccer, the Great Lawn is also a plum spot for a picnic—especially on those warm summer nights when the New York Philharmonic or Metropolitan Opera performs for free (p 43). Find the schedule at **www.centralparknyc.org** or **http://nyphil.org**, and bring along picnic

Tulips blooming in the park.



Strolling alongside the Lake.

fare from nearby gourmet groceries **Zabar's** (Broadway and 80th St.) or **Fairway** (Broadway and 75th St.). At the southern end, ★ **Belvedere Castle** (p 12) and its surrounding duck pond are particularly picturesque. ***Midpark from 79th–85th sts.***

6 ★ **The Ramble.** It looks wild—especially in comparison with the rest of the park—but it was actually designed that way to mirror untamed nature. Olmstead called it his "wild garden," and it takes up 38 acres (15 hectares) of the park. The Ramble has a seedy reputation after dark (we might not set foot in it after sunset), but during the day it's wonderful to explore. The curving paths that lead through the wooded area are inviting and offer some of the best scouting ground for bird-watchers in the city—some 230 species have been spotted here so far. A statue of a crouching cougar overlooks the East Drive between 76th and 77th streets. ***Midpark from 73rd–79th sts.***

7 ★★ **The Lake.** It's not quite as large as the Reservoir, but it's by far the most beautiful body of water in the park. Who would guess this idyllic lake was once a swamp? Rent a rowboat or kayak ($12 for the first hour) at the Loeb Boathouse (see below) and take your sweetie for a turn around the lake—the views from the water are superb. ***Midpark from 71st–78th sts.***

8 ★ **The Loeb Boathouse.** At the eastern end of the Lake is the Loeb Boathouse, where you can rent boats and bikes, as well as dine—and dine well. The upscale **Lakeside Restaurant** (lunch/brunch year-round; dinner Apr–Nov) is a truly lovely fine-dining space with alfresco lakeside seating on a wooden deck under a white canopy. The menu is contemporary American. The casual **Boathouse Bar & Grill** is popular in the warm months (Apr–Nov 11am–11pm daily) and the **Express Café** serves breakfast and light fare (year-round 8am–8pm daily). ***Fifth Ave. btw. 74th & 75th sts. ☎ 212/517-2233. www.thecentralparkboathouse.com. $–$$$.***

9 ★★ **Bethesda Terrace.** Architects Olmstead and Vaux were both determined to put nature first, second, and third (as Vaux was once quoted saying), but they acknowledged the need for a central meeting place in Central Park. This two-tiered terrace, as well as *Bethesda, the Angel of the Waters,* the sculpture at its center, were part of the original design. ***Midpark at 72nd St.***

10 ★★ **The Mall.** This beguiling promenade is shaded by a curving canopy of American elms—a favorite tree of the park's designers. At the south end of the Mall is the **Literary Walk,** flanked by statues of Shakespeare, Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, and other historic and literary figures. ***Midpark from 66th–72nd sts.***

11 kids **The Carousel.** It's hard to believe that this beautiful vintage carousel was ever relegated to a dusty warehouse. The original carousel was built in 1871; fires destroyed

it and a successor. Park officials searched high and low for a replacement, only to discover this treasure abandoned in an old trolley building on Coney Island. The 58 colorful steeds on it are among the largest carousel ponies in the world and were hand-carved by Russian immigrants Solomon Stein and Harry Goldstein in 1908. ***Midpark at 64th St. http://centralparkcarousel.com. $2 ride. Apr–Oct Mon–Fri 10am–5/6pm, Sat–Sun 10am–7pm.***

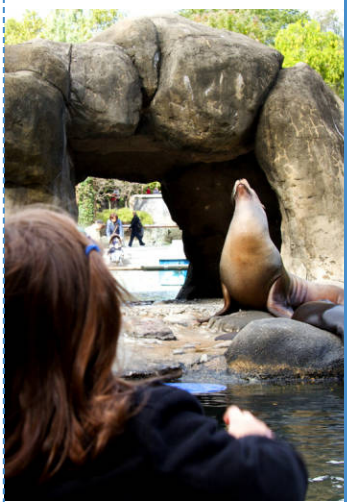
12 kids **Wollman Rink.** This relative newcomer was built into the northern bay of the Pond in 1951. In winter it's for ice skating, and in summer it's home to the **Victoria Gardens Amusement Park,** an immaculate amusement park geared to young children. ***Fifth Ave. btw. 62nd & 63rd sts. ☎ 212/439-6900. www.wollmanskatingrink.com. Mon–Tues 10am–2:30pm; Wed–Thurs 10am–10pm; Fri–Sat 10am–11pm; Sun 10am–9pm. Admission $10–$15 adults, $5.50–$5.75 children 11 and under.***

13 kids **Delacorte Clock.** With six dancing animals designed by Italian sculptor Andrea Spadini, this clock has been captivating park visitors since the '60s. The tunes played on the hour are longer and more elaborate; the half-hour ones are shorter but still sweet. ***Fifth Ave. & 65th St. (in the zoo; below).***

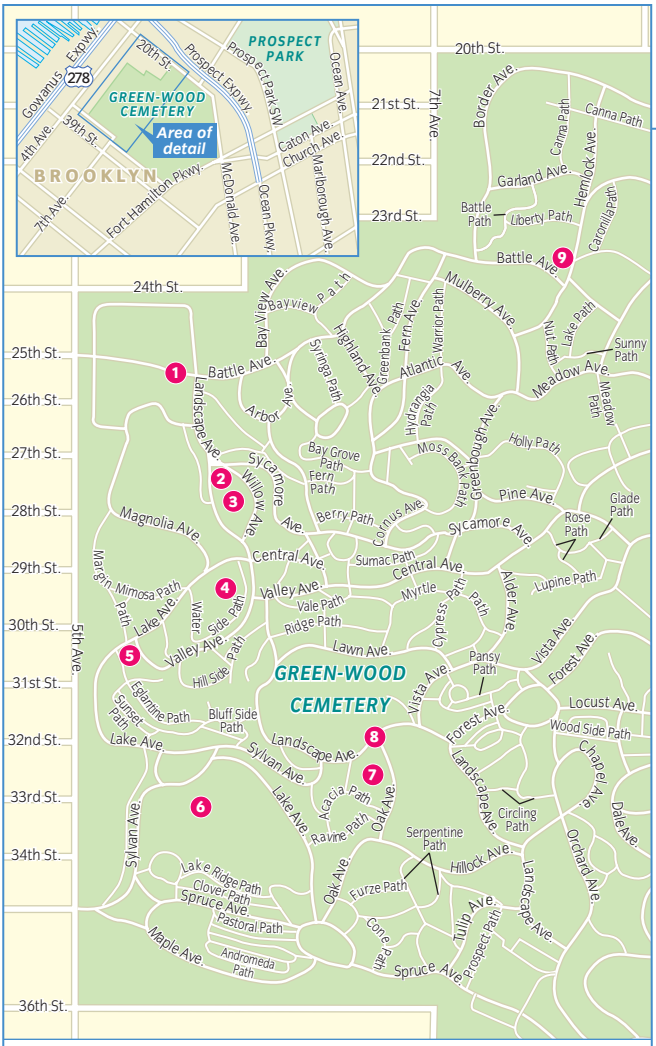
14 **The Arsenal.** This Gothic Revival building actually predates the park. It looks like a fortress—which it briefly was when it housed troops during the Civil War. It later served as the original home of the American Museum of Natural History (p 54). It was even home to some of P. T. Barnum's circus animals, from a black bear to white swans. Today it houses the park headquarters and a third-floor art gallery. ***Fifth Ave. & 64th St. ☎ 311 in New York City or 212/NEW-YORK. www.nycgovparks.org. Mon–Fri 9am–5pm.***

15 ★★ kids **Central Park Zoo.** The Central Park Zoo was built in 1988 to replace a 1934 WPA-built structure that had become cramped and outdated. Today the zoo's 5½ acres (2.2 hectares) house more than 400 animals. Watch the sea lions cavorting in the Central Garden pool, the polar bears splashing around in their watery den, or the penguins being fed in the chilly Polar Circle. In the small **Tisch Children's Zoo,** kids can feed and pet tame farm animals, including pot-bellied pigs. ***75 min. Fifth Ave. btw. 63rd & 66th sts. ☎ 212/861-6030. http://nyzoosandaquarium.com/cpz. Admission $12 adults, $9 seniors, $7 children 3–12, under 3 free. Daily 10am–4:30pm (extended hours for weekends, holidays & spring/summer).***

A seal preening at the Central Park Zoo.



Green-Wood Cemetery



1. Main Gate
2. Chapel Crescent
3. The Chapel
4. Valley Water
5. The Tomb of the Soda Fountain King
6. Sylvan Water
7. Greeley Gravesite
8. Landscape Avenue
9. Fannie the Dog

"**It is the ambition of the New Yorker to live upon Fifth Avenue, to take his airings in the Park,** and to sleep with his fathers in Green-Wood." So declared *The New York Times* in 1866. Today Brooklyn's 1838 Green-Wood Cemetery is a great place to revel in the outdoors, with 438 scenic acres and ornate mausoleums.

START: Subway N or R to 25th Street in Brooklyn.

1 ★★ Main Gate. Green-Wood has five entrances, but this Gothic gate with spires that stretch church-like into the sky is by far the most spectacular. A New York City Historic Landmark, it was built from 1861 to 1865 by architect Richard M. Upjohn. At the information booth inside you can pick up a free map of the grounds. It lists the many famous (and infamous) residents—some 600,000 in all. These include Samuel Morse, Henry Ward Beecher, Leonard Bernstein, Boss Tweed, Nathaniel Currier and James Ives, Jean-Michel Basquiat, and hundreds of Civil War soldiers. Self-guided walking tour booklets are also available for a fee. You will see NO PHOTOGRAPHY signs, but that rule isn't generally enforced unless you try to take pictures of mourners. *2 hr. 500 25th St. (at Fifth Ave.), Brooklyn. ☎ 718/768-7300. www.green-wood.com. Daily 8am–5pm (extended hours in summer). Trolley tours $15–$20. Subway: N/R to 25th St. in Brooklyn.*

2 ★ Chapel Crescent. Green-Wood's grand chapel (see below) is surrounded by stunning tombs. The B. Stephens tomb is shaped like a small Egyptian pyramid. The Chambettaz tomb has an angel statue overlooking the crescent as well as symbols from the secret society of the Freemasons.

3 ★★★ The Chapel. A few minutes' walk from the main gates is Green-Wood's crowning glory. The 1911 chapel is a relatively recent arrival, its design inspired by Tom Tower at Oxford's Christ Church college, the work of architect Christopher Wren in the 17th century. The multidomed structure is built entirely of Indiana limestone. The small interior frequently hosts readings and special exhibits that explore funerary art. Check the website for a calendar of events. *☎ 718/768-7300. www.green-wood.com.*

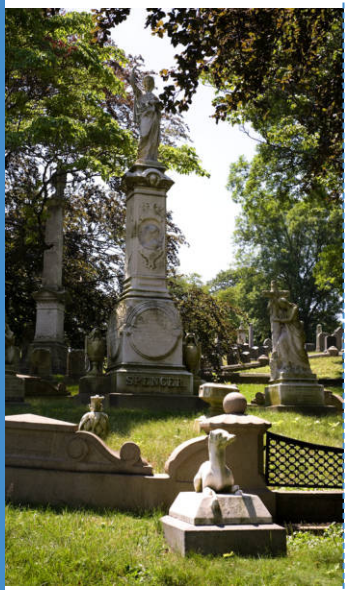
4 Valley Water. Some of Green-Wood's ponds have been filled in to create new burial plots, but this one is surrounded by evergreens. The avenue that curves around Valley Water is a treasure trove of 19th-century sculpture. Many of the monuments are partially draped by a carved "cloth." This popular Victorian Resurrectionist style reflected a belief that the body in the grave would rise on Judgment Day, when the cloth would fall away as if pulled back by the hand of God.

Green-Wood's elaborate main gate.

Green-Wood's chapel.

5 ★ **The Tomb of the Soda Fountain King.** This towering work of sculpture is really just one giant tombstone: In 1870, it won the Mortuary Monument of the Year award. (Didn't know there was such a thing, did you?) This is the resting place of John Matthews, the man who invented the soda fountain—and that information is about the only thing not carved into it. Gargoyles, members of the Matthews family, and Matthews himself are all here.

Elaborate tombstones at Green-Wood.



6 **Sylvan Water.** This is the largest body of water in Green-Wood. It's surrounded by a series of tombs, some of which look large enough to house a (living) family.

7 ★ **Greeley Gravesite.** Horace Greeley was an antislavery advocate who founded the *New York Tribune* and was a national figure. ("Go West, young man" is one of his famous aphorisms.) The views from his family plot are lovely.

8 **Landscape Avenue.** This winding, twisting avenue offers memorable vistas and some great statuary.

9 **Fannie the Dog.** Anyone who has ever loved a pet will find the engraving on Fannie's headstone moving: "FROSTS OF WINTER NOR HEAT OF SUMMER / COULD MAKE HER FAIL IF MY FOOTSTEPS LED / AND MEMORY HOLDS IN ITS TREASURE CASKET / THE NAME OF MY DARLING WHO LIES DEAD."

7 The Best **Dining**

Dining Best Bets

Best for a **Red-Meat Fix**
Keens $$$ *72 W. 36th St. (p 120)*
Peter Luger $$$ *178 Broadway, Brooklyn (p 123)*

Best **Vegetarian**
Pure Food and Wine $$ *54 Irving Place (p 123)*

Best **French**
Le Bernardin $$$$ *55 W. 51st St. (p 120)*

Best **Meal for Under $10**
Kalustyan's $ *123 Lexington Ave. (p 119)*

Best **Burger**
Stand $ *24 E. 12th St. (p 124)*

Best **Chinese**
Oriental Garden $$ *14 Elizabeth St. (p 122)*

Best **Food Court**
Chelsea Market $ *75 Ninth Ave. (p 117)*
Eataly $–$$ *200 Fifth Ave. (p 118)*

Best **Nouveau Southeast Asian**
Spice Market $$–$$$ *403 W. 13th St. (p 124)*

Best **Deli**
Katz's $ *205 E. Houston St. (p 119)*
Barney Greengrass $ *541 Amsterdam Ave. (p 116)*

Best **Pizza**
John's Pizzeria of Bleecker Street $ *278 Bleecker St. (p 119)*
Farinella Italian Bakery $ *1132 Lexington Ave. (p 118)*

Best **Seafood**
Le Bernardin $$$$ *55 W. 51st St. (p 120)*

Best **Splurge**
Eleven Madison Park $$$$ *11 Madison Ave. (p 118)*
Blue Hill $$$$ *75 Washington Place (p 116)*

Best **Sushi**
Nobu/Nobu Next Door $$$ *105 Hudson St. (p 122)*

Best **Thai**
Pam Real Thai $ *404 W. 49th St. (p 122)*

Best **Italian**
Babbo $$$–$$$$ *110 Waverly Place (p 116)*
Marea $$$–$$$$ *240 Central Park S. (p 120)*

Best for **Families**
Carmine's $$ *2450 Broadway (p 117)*

Most **Cinematic Setting**
Spice Market $$–$$$ *403 W. 13th St. (p 124)*

Best **New Restaurant**
ABC Kitchen $$$ *35 E. 18th St. (p 116)*
The Breslin $$$ *16 W. 29th St. (p 117)*

Previous page: Lamb burgers at the Breslin.

Downtown Dining

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Lupa 10
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Nyonya 12
Oriental Garden 13
Pastis 2
Peking Duck House 14
Perilla 8
Recette 3
Spice Market 1
Stand 4

Midtown & Uptown Dining

Transverse
PARK
East Drive
Center Drive
The Pond
Fifth Ave.
UPPER EAST SIDE
Madison Ave.
E. 66th St.
E. 65th St.
E. 64th St.
E. 63rd St.
E. 62nd St.
E. 61st St.
E. 60th St.
York Ave.
Roosevelt Island Tram
Queensboro Bridge
Sutton Pl.
Sutton Pl. South
E. 59th St.
E. 58th St.
E. 57th St.
E. 56th St.
E. 55th St.
E. 54th St.
E. 53rd St.
E. 52nd St.
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E. 45th St.
E. 44th St.
E. 43rd St.
E. 42nd St.
E. 41st St.
E. 40th St.
E. 39th St.
E. 38th St.
St. Patrick's Cathedral
MIDTOWN EAST
ROCKEFELLER CENTER
Beekman Place
Mitchell Place
FDR Drive
First Ave.
Third Ave.
Lexington Ave.
Park Ave.
Vanderbilt Ave.
Grand Central Terminal
Second Ave.
UNITED NATIONS
Sixth Ave. (Ave. of the Americas)
Bryant Park
New York Public Library
MURRAY HILL
Queens-Midtown Tunnel
E 37th St.
E 36th St.
E. 35th St.
E. 34th St.
E. 33rd St.
E. 32nd St.
E. 31st St.
E. 30th St.
E. 29th St.
E. 28th St.
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E. 25th St.
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E. 21st St.
E. 20th St.
E. 19th St.
E. 18th St.
E. 17th St.
E. 16th St.
E. 15th St.
E. 14th St.
Empire State Building
W 32nd St.
Broadway
Park Ave. S.
East River
Madison Square Park
Flatiron Building
Lexington Ave.
Asser Levy Pl.
Asser Levy Playground
FLATIRON DISTRICT
Gramercy Park
GRAMERCY PARK
PETER COOPER VILLAGE
Union Square
Union Sq. W.
Union Sq. E.
Irving Pl.
N.D. Perlman Pl.
STUYVESANT TOWN
16
17
15
14
13
12
11
10
9
M

New York Restaurants A to Z

★★★ **ABC Kitchen** UNION SQUARE *NEW AMERICAN* Overachieving chef Jean-Georges Vongerichten has taken on the farm-to-table trend and wrestled it to the ground with fresh, impeccably sourced ingredients and a delicious, impeccably prepared menu. It's comfort food for foodies. ***ABC Carpet & Home, 35 E. 18th St. (at Broadway). ☎ 212/475-5829. www.abckitchennyc.com. Main courses $21–$37. AE, DISC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Subway: 4/5/6/L/N/R to Union Sq.***

★★ **Babbo** WASHINGTON SQUARE *ITALIAN* A big star in celebrity chef Mario Batali's edible empire. Set in a warm, flower-filled town house, Babbo is lit from within with a special-occasion glow. The pasta tasting menu is a smart choice. ***110 Waverly Place (at Sixth Ave.). ☎ 212/777-0303. www.babbonyc.com. Main courses $19–$29; 7-course tasting menus $69–$75. AE, MC, V. Dinner daily. Subway: A/C/E/F/B/D to 4th St.***

★★ **Bar Boulud** UPPER WEST SIDE *FRENCH COUNTRY* After a shaky start, this Lincoln Center–area restaurant from Daniel Boulud is firing on all cylinders. It specializes in house-made charcuterie, but the fish is cooked to perfection. A red-wine-braised flatiron steak melts like butter. High ceilings and mirrored walls make this long, narrow space look roomier—and brilliantly reflect the fashionable sorts who flock here. ***1900 Broadway (btw. 63rd & 64th sts.). ☎ 212/595-0303. http://danielnyc.com. Main courses $25–$33. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily, late-night supper Fri–Sat. Subway: 1 to 64th St.***

★ **Barney Greengrass** UPPER WEST SIDE *DELI* The Sturgeon King has been selling lox and bagels for a century at this favorite weekend brunch spot. The vintage counters and dairy case are beautiful. ***541 Amsterdam Ave. (btw. 86th & 87th sts.). ☎ 212/724-4707. www.barneygreengrass.com. Main courses $6–$19; smoked fish platters $25–$45. AE, MC, V. Breakfast & lunch (or brunch) Tues–Sun. Subway: 1/9 to 86th St.***

★★★ **Blue Hill** GREENWICH VILLAGE *AMERICAN* This soothing, understated Village town-house space quietly goes about its business serving some of the most

Authentic dim-sum dumplings in Chinatown.

Inside the Breslin.

delicious food in town, with an admirable sustainable-foods philosophy that travels beautifully from purveyor to plate. Chef Dan Barber coaxes the best out of the best ingredients. Even lowly Brussels sprouts become irresistible. ***75 Washington Place (btw. 6th Ave. & Washington Sq. W.). ☎ 212/539-1776. http://bluehillfarm.com. Main courses $32–$36. AE, DC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Subway: B/D/F/M/A/C/E to W. 4th St.***

★★ **The Breslin** FLATIRON DISTRICT *GASTROPUB* All dark wood, beveled glass, and cozy niches, this Michelin-starred spot is a warm oasis for gastronomes and homesick Brits. Meat is the star, from the celebrated lamb burger to the pork-belly platter to house-made sausage. Even the boiled peanuts are fried in pork fat. ***Ace Hotel, 16 W. 29th St. (at Broadway). ☎ 212/679-1939. www.thebreslin.com. Main courses $17–$29. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Breakfast, lunch & dinner Mon–Fri; brunch & dinner Sat–Sun. Subway: N/R to 28th St.***

★ kids **Carmine's** MIDTOWN WEST *ITALIAN* A place this big and bustling doesn't have to have stellar food—but Carmine's does a lot of things very well. The vast dining room manages to feel both warm and festive, and the family-style portions of hearty pastas and Southern Italian favorites more than satisfy. ***200 W. 44th St. (btw. Seventh & Eighth aves.). ☎ 212/221-3800. www.carminesnyc.com. Main courses $25–$49. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Subway: 1/2/3/7/9/A/C/E/S to 42th St./Times Sq.***

★★ **Chelsea Market** CHELSEA *FOOD COURT* The standout cafes/food stalls in this wholesale/retail food market are ensconced in a cleverly restored former Nabisco biscuit factory. There's plenty of seating amid massive exposed pipes, a gushing "waterfall," and a million square feet of market space. The food is seriously good here: topnotch Thai from **Chelsea Thai;** lobster rolls and sushi from the **Lobster Place;** pastas and pizzas from **Buon Italia;** and sustainably sourced comfort food at the Cleaver Co.'s **Green Table.** ***75 Ninth Ave. (btw. 15th & 16th sts.). www.chelseamarket.com. Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily, depending on restaurant. Subway: A/C/E to 14th St.***

★★ **Dominick's** THE BRONX *ITALIAN* The dining room is small and slightly cramped. You may have a long wait for a table on weekend evenings. But hang in and you will be well taken care of by the

Chelsea Market.

Eleven Madison Park.

top-notch if taciturn waitstaff at this legendary spot, which has no menus and no checks. You want some clams to start? A salad or a stuffed artichoke maybe? Yes, yes, and yes. Follow with a sampling of perfect seafood pastas, buttery shrimp *franchese,* and a perfectly cooked steak. ***2335 Arthur Ave. (btw. 187th St. & Crescent Ave.). ☎ 718/733-2807. Main courses $10–$25. Cash only. Lunch & dinner Wed–Mon. Subway: B/D to 183rd St.***

★★ **Eataly** FLATIRON DISTRICT *ITALIAN* Opened to much fanfare in 2010, this bustling, dynamic Italian-centric marketplace has sit-down restaurants, standing-table *enotecas,* a raw-bar counter, a *rosticerria* (with daily roasted meat specials), a pizzeria, a *pasticerria,* a *gelateria*—even a rooftop beer garden. ***See p 98.***

★★★ **Eleven Madison Park** FLATIRON DISTRICT *FRENCH COUNTRY/AMERICAN* Chef Daniel Humm won the James Beard award for Best New York City Chef in 2010—and that's saying something. This gem from restaurateur Danny Meyer is set in a soaring Art Deco space. The two-story windows have spectacular views of the park at night. ***11 Madison Ave. (at 24th St.). ☎ 212/889-0905. www.elevenmadisonpark.com. 4-course prix-fixe menu $125; tasting menu $195. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Lunch Mon–Sat, dinner daily. Subway: N/R/6 to 23rd St.***

★ **Farinella Italian Bakery** UPPER EAST SIDE *PIZZA* Some of the best pizza in the city, guided by

Good Eats: Brooklyn's Smith Street

It started as it usually does: The rents were cheap, and enterprising young chefs saw potential in the modest mom-and-pop storefronts. Today Smith Street, in the **Cobble Hill** section of Brooklyn, has a celebrated restaurant scene with an emphasis on the local, the seasonal, and the artisanal—bringing the nabe full circle with a hands-on mom-and-pop sensibility. Among the best: **Saul** (140 Smith St.; ☎ 718/935-9844), the Michelin-starred husband-and-wife labor of love; the **Grocery** (288 Smith St.; ☎ 718/596-3335), which shocked the Manhattan restaurant world in 2003 when it shot to the top spot in the Zagat restaurant survey; **Chestnut** (271 Smith St.; ☎ 718/243-0049), a charming brunch spot; and **Robin des Bois** (195 Smith St.; ☎ 718/596-1609), a funky antiques-filled spot with a fireplace and a garden. All can be reached by taking the F subway train to Bergen Street.

Real New York pizza at John's.

a former hip-hop artist from Naples who learned to make Roman-style pizza in the Campo de' Fiori. Sold by the square slice ($2–$4) or 4-foot-long *palam* or half-*palam,* the pizza is feathery light, its brittle crust soulfully flavored with salt and good olive oil. ***1132 Lexington Ave. (at 78th St.). ☎ 212/327-2702. www.farinellabakery.com. Pizzas $10–$38. AE, MC, V. Breakfast, lunch & dinner Mon–Sat. Subway: 6 to 78th St.***

★★ **Hearth** EAST VILLAGE *MEDITERRANEAN/ITALIAN* This warm East Villager is a favorite of diners and critics alike. It's all about fresh, seasonal local food cooked with tender loving care. ***403 E. 12th St. (at First Ave.). ☎ 646/602-1300. www.restauranthearth.com. Main courses $26–$30; 7-course tasting menu $72. AE, DISC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Subway: N/R/4/5/6 to Union Sq. Map p 113.***

★ **John's Pizzeria of Bleecker Street** kids GREENWICH VILLAGE *PIZZA* The decor in this longtime Bleecker Street favorite, founded in 1929, hasn't changed over the years: wooden booths, Olde Italy mural, and tin ceilings. The pizza hasn't changed, either—and hallelujah for that. The brick-oven pies are thin, crispy, and delicious. There's also a branch in Times Square (260 W. 44th St.; ☎ 212/391-7560). ***278 Bleecker St. (btw. Sixth & Seventh aves.). ☎ 212/243-1680. www.johnsbrickovenpizza.com. Pizzas $12–$14, toppings $2. No credit cards. Lunch & dinner daily. Subway: A/C/E/B/D/F/M at W. 4th St.***

★ **Kalustyan's** MURRAY HILL *MIDDLE EASTERN MARKET/CAFE* Downstairs is a Middle Eastern market, its wooden barrels filled with nuts, grains, herbs, and spices. Climb the stairs to the little cafe and order a sublime ★ ***mujadarra*** (lentils and bulgur wheat cooked with caramelized onions) in a pita, or fresh soup, or other homemade Indian specialties. ***123 Lexington Ave. (btw. 27th and 28th sts.). ☎ 212/685-3451. http://kalustyans.com. Platters/sandwiches $5–$8. AE, MC, V. Lunch daily. Subway: F to Second Ave.***

★ **Katz's Delicatessen** LOWER EAST SIDE *DELI* Founded in 1888, this homely, cacophonous space is one of the city's last great old-time delis. No one makes a better pastrami or brisket sandwich. Plus you can see the spot where Meg Ryan performed her famous scene in *When Harry Met Sally*. ***205 E. Houston St. (at Ludlow St.). ☎ 212/254-2246.***

Spices for sale at Kalustyan's.

www.katzdeli.com. Sandwiches $3–$10; other items $5–$18. AE, MC, V. Breakfast, lunch & dinner daily. Subway: F to Second Ave.

★★★ **Keens** MIDTOWN WEST *STEAK* If you're searching for old New York, look no further than this 1885 survivor tucked away on a side street near Madison Square Garden. The space has always been wonderful; now the food is its equal. We had one of the best steaks we've ever eaten here. *72 W. 36th St. (at Sixth Ave.). ☎ 212/947-3636. www.keens.com. Main courses $26–$57. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner*

The pastrami sandwich at Katz's.

Mon–Fri; dinner Sat & Sun. Subway: 1/2/3/9 to 34th St./Penn Station.

★★★ **Le Bernardin** MIDTOWN WEST *FRENCH/SEAFOOD* Chef Eric Ripert is one of the giants on the NYC culinary scene and a master with seafood. The formal service is impeccable. *55 W. 51st St. (btw. Sixth & Seventh aves.). ☎ 212/489-1515. www.le-bernardin.com. Prix-fixe dinner $112; tasting menu $138 ($225 with wine pairings). AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Lunch Mon–Fri, dinner Mon–Sat. Subway: N/R to 49th St.; 1/9 to 50th St.*

★ **Lupa** GREENWICH VILLAGE *ITALIAN* This brick-lined homage to a Roman trattoria has been filled to capacity since it opened. And why not? The food is impeccable and often inventive, and the prices won't bankrupt you. It's part of the Batali/Bastianich empire. *170 Thompson St. (btw. Houston & Bleecker sts.). ☎ 212/982-5089. www.luparestaurant.com. Main courses $13–$24. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Subway: B/D/F/M/A/C/E to W. 4th St.*

★★★ **Marea** MIDTOWN WEST *ITALIAN/SEAFOOD* Chef Michael White's culinary homage to the Italian coastline hits it out of the park with briny *crudo* (raw fish) and simple but revelatory pastas and mains.

Restaurant Week: Prix-Fixe Dining

Everyone loves a deal, and Restaurant Week is one of New York's best. It started more than a decade ago, when some of the city's best dining spots began to offer three courses for a fixed low price at lunch ($24) and dinner ($35). Now it's an institution—and lasts for several weeks in January and July. Some restaurants offer prix-fixe menus year-round or have discounted menus on certain days or times. For example, the **"21" Club** (p 33) has a $35 prix-fixe lunch menu. Check out **www.opentable.com** or **www.nycvisit.com** for more information on Restaurant Week and participating restaurants.

How about spaghetti tossed with crab, sea urchin, and basil? An Adriatic seafood soup is brimming with clams, langoustines, scallops, shrimp, and bass. ***240 Central Park S. (near Broadway). ☎ 212/582-5100. www.marea-nyc.com. Pastas & risottos $25–$33; main courses $38–$49. AE, DISC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner Mon–Fri; dinner Sat; brunch & dinner Sun. Subway: 1/A/B/C/D to 59 St./Columbus Circle.***

★★ **The Modern** MIDTOWN WEST *AMERICAN* Dining in this elegant space overlooking MoMA's sculpture garden makes you feel as if you're at the center of a very sophisticated urban universe—and you are. The food lives up to the setting, and the cross-section of New Yorkers crisply doing business makes this a great spot to see the local tribe in action. ***The Museum of Modern Art, 9 W. 53rd St. (btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.). ☎ 212/333-1220. www.themodernnyc.com. 4-course prix-fixe $98; 7-course tasting menu $140. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Lunch &***

Keens's century-old dining room.

The bustling bar at the Modern.

dinner Mon–Fri; dinner Sat. Subway: E/M to Fifth Ave./53rd St.

★★★ Nobu/Nobu Next Door TRIBECA *JAPANESE* Renowned chef Nobuyuki Matsuhisa's cooking bursts with creative spirit. Can't get a reservation at Nobu? Take heart: **Nobu Next Door,** a slightly more casual alternative, has a no-reservations policy. *105 Hudson St. (at Franklin St.). ☎ 212/219-0500 for Nobu; ☎ 212/334-4445 for Nobu Next Door. www.noburestaurants.com. Main courses $28–$45; sushi $5–$9 per piece; omakase $60 and up. AE, DC, MC, V. Nobu lunch & dinner Mon–Fri; dinner Sat–Sun. Nobu Next Door dinner daily. Subway: 1/9 to Franklin St.*

★ Nyonya LITTLE ITALY *MALAYSIAN* Spacious and bustling, this restaurant looks like a South Asian tiki hut. Try the Malaysian national dish, *roti canai* (an Indian pancake with a curry chicken dipping sauce). *199 Grand St. (btw. Mulberry & Mott sts.). ☎ 212/619-0085. www.ilovenyonya.com. Main courses $6–$23. No credit cards. Lunch & dinner daily. Subway: 6 to Spring St.*

★ Oriental Garden CHINATOWN *CHINESE* In a pleasant dining room that's smaller and nowhere near as frenetic as nearby dim-sum palaces like Jing Fong, you get thoughtfully prepared dishes, with an emphasis on fresh seafood. *14 Elizabeth St. (at Bayard St.). ☎ 212/334-3669. Main courses $14–$28. AE. Lunch & dinner daily. Subway: 6/N/R to Canal St.*

★★ Ouest UPPER WEST SIDE *NEW AMERICAN* Living well is the best revenge, and you'll feel comfortable and cosseted while dining on Tom Valenti's solid American-bistro food in this lively spot. *2315 Broadway (at 84th St.). ☎ 212/580-8700. http://ouestny.com. Main courses $24–$38. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Dinner daily; brunch Sun. Subway: 1/9 to 86th St.*

★ kids Pam Real Thai MIDTOWN WEST *THAI* Thai food can be hit or miss in New York, making this place a terrific find. The crispy duck yum is deliciously spicy. *404 W. 49th St. (at Ninth Ave.). ☎ 212/333-7500. http://pamrealthaifood.com. Main courses $7–$10. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Subway: C/E to 50th St./Eighth Ave.*

★ kids Pastis MEATPACKING DISTRICT *FRENCH BISTRO* This sunny, artful replication of a French bistro on a central Meatpacking District street has been packing 'em since it opened in 1999. The Provençal specialties, like a classic tuna *niçoise* and Pernod-soaked *moules-frites,* will have you pining for a French *grandmère.* Grab a seat outside overlooking a wide cobblestone plaza and enjoy the passing parade: dogs, kids, fashionistas. *9 Ninth Ave. (btw. Little W. 12th & 13th sts.). ☎ 212/929-4844. www.pastisny.com. Main courses $19–$36. AE, MC, V. Breakfast, lunch (or brunch),*

dinner & late-night supper daily. Subway: A/C/E to 14th St.

★ **Peking Duck House** CHINATOWN *CHINESE* Now that the much-loved Canton is closed, this is our favorite "upscale" restaurant in Chinatown, with white tablecloths and a minimalist setting. The Peking duck is worth the trip; the "Special House Dinner" ($38 per person) includes half a Peking duck. ***28 Mott St. (btw. Pell & Mosco sts.). ☎ 212/227-1810. www.pekingduckhousenyc.com. Main courses $11–$38; Peking duck $43. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Subway: J/M/Z/N/R/6 to Canal St.***

★ **Perilla** GREENWICH VILLAGE *AMERICAN* A TV reality-show winner runs this small but exciting Village restaurant. *Top Chef* 2006 winner Harold Dieterle is a talent; his menu includes rutabaga-wrapped ravioli and spicy duck meatballs. ***9 Jones St. (btw. W. 4th & Bleecker sts.). ☎ 212/929-6868. www.perillanyc.com. Main courses $21–$28; 6-course tasting menu $70. AE, MC, V. Dinner daily; brunch Sat–Sun. Subway: A/C/E/B/D/F/M to W. 4th St.***

★★★ **Peter Luger Steakhouse** BROOKLYN *STEAK* This Brooklyn institution is porterhouse heaven. The meat cuts like butter, and the waiters are properly crusty. ***178 Broadway (at Driggs Ave.), Brooklyn. ☎ 718/387-7400. www.peterluger.com. Main courses $20–$35. Debit cards & checks with ID accepted. Lunch & dinner daily. Subway: J/M/Z to Marcy Ave.***

★ **Pure Food and Wine** GRAMERCY *RAW/VEGAN* The delicious food is a revelation at the standard-bearer of the Raw Food movement, where nothing is cooked above 118°F (48°C). ***54 Irving Place (at 17th St.). ☎ 212/477-1010. www.oneluckyduck.com. Main courses $24–$26. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Subway: L/N/R/4/5/6 to 14th St./Union Sq.***

★★ **Recette** GREENWICH VILLAGE *NEW AMERICAN* Grazing is elevated to an art form by a trail-blazing young chef in a quaint pocket of the West Village. New-wave alchemy meets old-school techniques in the fashioning of snacks and small plates. How about Berkshire pork belly with rock shrimp, turnips, romesco, and sherry caramel? Finish with the "deconstructed" s'mores: graham-cracker ice cream, toasted marshmallows, and hot and spicy chocolate ganache. ***328 W. 12th St. (at Greenwich St.). ☎ 212/414-3000. http://recettenyc.com. Plates $10–$38; chef's tasting menus $75–$100. AE, MC, V. Dinner Mon–Sat; brunch Sat–Sun. Subway: A/C/E/1/2/3 to 14th St.***

★ **Red Cat** CHELSEA *AMERICAN BISTRO* Sometimes all you want is a good, solid meal in warm, relaxing surroundings. This casual bistro makes it look easy. It's got an attractive setting, topnotch service, and reliably delicious bistro food. ***227 10th Ave. (btw. 23rd & 24th sts.).***

The classic New York bagel with lox, onions, and cream cheese.

Soul food at Sylvia's in Harlem.

212/242-1122. www.theredcat.com. Main courses $21–$36. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Dinner daily. Subway: C/E/1/9 to 23rd St.

★★ **Spice Market** MEATPACKING DISTRICT *SOUTHEAST ASIAN* Chef Jean-Georges's giddy, glorious ode to Southeast Asian street food. It's cinematically thrilling, with floors from a Bombay palace and a Burmese temple as its centerpiece. French doors open to the outside, and fans twirl languidly above. Peekytoe crab dumplings come with crisp sugarsnaps, and a rich butternut squash soup is dotted with roasted pumpkin seeds. ***403 W. 13th St. (at Ninth Ave.). 212/675-2322. www.spicemarketnewyork.com. Main courses $16–$37; tasting menu $48. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Subway: A/C/E/1/2/3 to 14th St.***

★ **Stand** GREENWICH VILLAGE/UNION SQUARE *BURGERS* We think the burgers here are as good as any in town, and that's saying a lot. It's a casual but smart-looking spot that's as appealing to NYU hipsters as it is to hungry families. ***24 E. 12th St. (btw. University Place & Fifth Ave.). 212/488-5900. Burgers $9–$15; toppings $1–$2. www.standburger.com. AE, MC, V. Lunch & dinner daily. Subway: 4/5/6/L/Q/N/R/W to 14th St./Union Sq.***

Sylvia's HARLEM *SOUL FOOD* South Carolina–born Sylvia Woods has become an empire (canned food products, fragrances, and such), but the Sunday gospel brunch at her original Harlem restaurant is still a delight. Think fried chicken, smothered chicken, collards, and barbecue ribs. ***328 Lenox Ave. (btw. 126th & 127th sts.). 212/996-0660. Main courses $9–$19. www.sylviassoulfood.com. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Breakfast Mon–Fri, lunch & dinner daily. Subway: 2/3 to 125th St.***

8 The Best **Nightlife**

Nightlife Best Bets

Best **Place to Swig a Microbrew**
Blind Tiger, *281 Bleecker St. (p 130)*

Best **Wine Bar**
Enoteca i Trulli, *122 E. 27th St. (p 131)*

Best **Historic Bar**
King Cole Bar, *2 E. 55th St. (p 131)*

Best **Choice of Single-Malt Scotches**
dba, *41 First Ave. (p 131)*

Best **Place to Bowl & Sip a Martini**
Bowlmor Lanes, *110 University Place (p 130)*

Best **Piano Bar**
Brandy's Piano Bar, *235 E. 84th St. (p 134)*

Best **Hotel Bar**
Bar Seven Five, *The Andaz Wall Street, 75 Wall St. (p 130)*
Jane Hotel Ballroom, *113 Jane St. (p 131)*

Best **Museum Bar**
Roof Garden, *Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Ave. (p 132)*

Best **Vodka Selection**
Pravda, *281 Lafayette St. (p 132)*

Best **Irish Pub**
Tír Na Nóg, *5 Penn Plaza (p 133)*

Best **Umbrella Drinks**
The Hurricane Club, *360 Park Ave. S. (p 131)*

Best **Drag Queens**
Splash, *50 W. 17th St. (p 134)*

Best **Hidden Tapas Bar**
Ñ, *33 Crosby St. (p 132)*

Take the L Train: Billyburg Bars

Just over the bridge in Brooklyn, Williamsburg mushroomed when artists, young professionals, and expats from the Lower East Side poured in to escape soaring Manhattan rents. It's a happening neighborhood, with a multicultural mix, big living lofts, and railroad apartments. And bars. To check out some of the city's freshest, you only need to take a short ride from 14th Street in Manhattan on the L train. **Union Pool** (☎ 718/609-0484) is a bright, attractive bar with a large outdoor space, velvet lounges, and a post-hipster crowd. **Pete's Candy Store** (www.petescandystore.com) is a wonderful bar with live music, trivia, and spelling-bee nights, and a Sunday backyard barbecue. If you want to see a hot band in a topnotch setting, the **Music Hall of Williamsburg** (www.musichallofwilliamsburg.com)—a sister club to the Bowery Ballroom and Mercury Lounge in Manhattan—is a good bet.

Previous page: Bellying up to the King Cole Bar.

Downtown Nightlife

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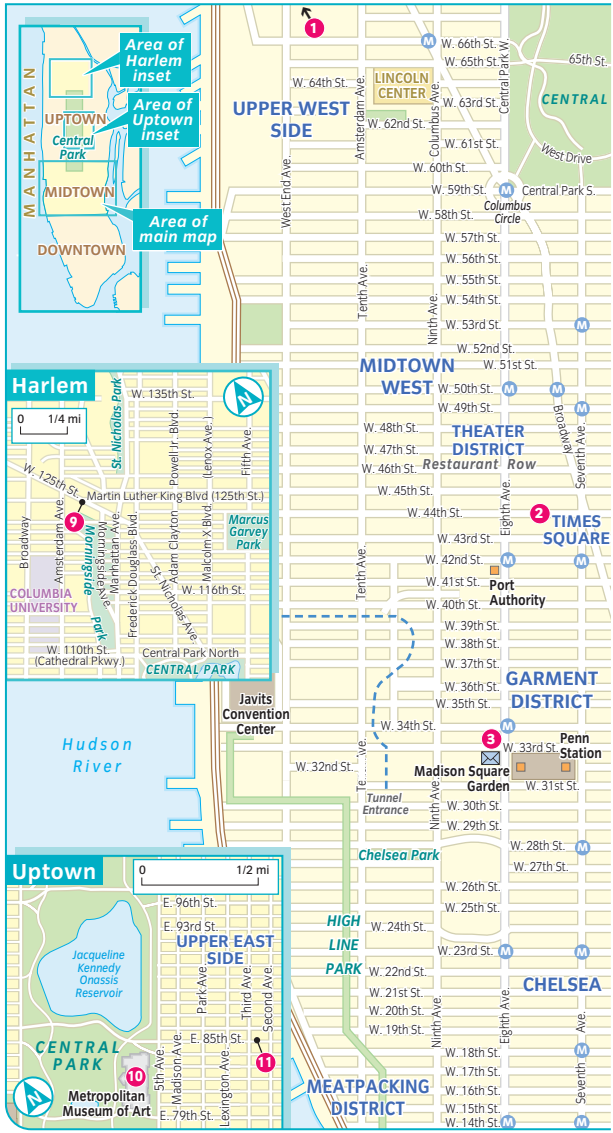
Midtown & Uptown Nightlife



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- Cotton Club 9
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- 79th Street Boat Basin 1
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New York **Nightlife A to Z**

Bar Seven Five.

Bars & Cocktail Lounges

★★ **Bar Seven Five** FINANCIAL DISTRICT This dazzling lounge in the Andaz Wall Street hotel has a percolating happy hour, a fizzy cocktail of Wall Streeters, hotel guests, and a growing cadre of downtown locals. ***Andaz Wall Street, 75 Wall St. (at Water St.). ☎ 212/590-1234. http://newyork.wallstreet.andaz.hyatt.com. Subway: 2/3 to Wall St./William St.; 4/5 to Wall St.***

★ **Blind Tiger** WEST VILLAGE This homey, classic pub, with wood-beam ceilings, a working fireplace, and a chummy vibe, is a fine place to sip a beer. Among the options are 30-odd crafted drafts. ***281 Bleecker St. (at Jones St.). ☎ 212/462-4682. www.blindtigeralehouse.com. Subway: 1/9 to Christopher St.***

Carnival at Bowlmor Lanes.

★★ **Bowlmor Lanes** UNION SQUARE This 1938 bowling alley has gone mod, with candy-colored lanes, martinis, glow-in-the-dark bowling, and DJ house and techno music. Upstairs is ★ **Carnival** (http://carnivalnyc.com), a big, bordello-red lounge with real carnival games, strolling carny performers, and two bars. ***110 University Place (btw. 12th & 13th sts.). ☎ 212/255-8188. www.bowlmor.com. Subway: 4/5/6/L/N/R to 14th St./Union Sq.***

★★ **Bowlmor Times Square** TIMES SQUARE Opened in fall 2010, this 90,000-square-foot mega-entertainment complex in Times

Square has 50 bowling lanes in seven city-themed sections and a David Burke restaurant, the **Gray Lady** (the nickname given *The New York Times* and a nod to the newspaper formerly housed in the building). ***Times Square Building, 229 W. 44th St. (btw. Seventh & Eighth aves.). ☎ 212/680-0012. www.bowlmor.com. Subway: R/S/W/1/2/3/7 to 42nd St./Times Sq.***

★★ **dba** EAST VILLAGE Lounges dominate the city, but dba is a refreshing change of pace. It's an unpretentious neighborhood bar—a beer- or whiskey-lover's dream. The collection of single-malt scotches is phenomenal. ***41 First Ave. (btw. 2nd & 3rd sts.). ☎ 212/475-5097. www.drinkgoodstuff.com. Subway: F to Second Ave.***

★ **Enoteca i Trulli** MURRAY HILL This handsome Italian-style *enoteca* (wine bar) next door to the main restaurant (i Trulli) is a great date spot. You can taste flights of Italian vino and sample cheeses, meats, or olives or such heartier fare as grilled octopus or *lasagne verde* (spinach lasagne). ***122 E. 27th St. (btw. Park & Lexington aves.). ☎ 212/481-7372. www.itrulli.com. Subway: 6 to 28th St.***

★★ **The Hurricane Club** FLATIRON DISTRICT Longtime New Yorkers nostalgic for the tiki torches and pu-pu platters of long-gone Trader Vic's rejoiced when this fizzy ode to Polynesia opened in 2010. The youngsters fell for it too—witness a giddy post-work crowd celebrating happy hours with big, fruity drinks. ***360 Park Ave. S. (at 26th St.). ☎ 212/951-7111. http://thehurricaneclub.com. Subway: 6 to 28th St.***

★★ **Jane Hotel Ballroom** WEST VILLAGE This baronial lounge is the size of a ballroom but feels more like the tapestried grand room of a Victorian manor. ***113 Jane St. (at West End Hwy.). ☎ 212/924-6700. http://thejanenyc.com. Subway: A/C/E to 14th St.***

★★ **King Cole Bar** MIDTOWN EAST The Bloody Mary was born here, in the tony St. Regis Hotel. The Maxfield Parrish mural alone is worth the price of a classic cocktail (but egads, what a price!). It's a small but memorable spot. ***2 E. 55th St. (at Fifth Ave.). ☎ 212/744-4300.***

Behind the bar at dba.

The Jane Hotel Ballroom.

http://kingcolebar.com. Subway: E to Fifth Ave./53rd St.

★★ **Metropolitan Museum Roof Garden/Great Hall Balcony Bar** UPPER EAST SIDE Every Friday and Saturday night from 4 to 8:30pm, the mezzanine level of the Met's lobby transforms into a lounge with live classical music. When the weather warms, take the elevator up to the **Roof Garden** for drinks with sumptuous views of the park. ***Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Ave. (at 82nd St.). ☎ 212/535-7710. www.metmuseum.org. Subway: 4/5/6 to 86th St.***

★★ **Ñ** SOHO This dark, narrow, candlelit tapas bar is a gem. Ñ (pronounced like the Spanish letter, *eh*-nyeh) is a great place to savor some very good tapas and fruity sangria. On Wednesday nights, arrive early to claim a seat for the weekly flamenco performance, which begins around 8pm. ***33 Crosby St. (btw. Grand & Broome sts.). ☎ 212/219-8856. Subway: N/R to Prince St.; 6 to Spring St.***

★★ **Pegu Club** SOHO Self-described "gatekeepers of classic cocktail culture," the Pegu Club brings uptown to downtown in this sleek and polished venue. ***77 W. Houston St., 2nd Floor (at W. Broadway). ☎ 212/473-PEGU (473-7348). www.peguclub.com. Subway: 6/ F/M to Bleecker St./Lafayette St.***

★★ **Pianos** LOWER EAST SIDE This multilevel former piano store gets high marks both as a bar and as a music venue. On any given night, three or four different performances may be going on. ***158 Ludlow St. ☎ 212/505-3733. www.pianosnyc.com. Subway: F/M to Second Ave.***

★ **Pravda** SOHO This glam underground caviar lounge is no longer the "it" place in town, but consider that good news: It means you won't be surrounded by preening trendsters. This Keith McNally concoction still entertains with a great atmosphere (sexy red banquettes) and some 70 types of vodka from 18 countries. The only street-level sign reads "281"; follow the stairwell down. ***281 Lafayette St. (btw. Houston & Prince sts.). ☎ 212/226-4944. www.pravdany.com. Subway: N to Prince St.***

★★ **Rose Bar** GRAMERCY PARK Ian Schrager's 2006 head-to-toe renovation of the old Gramercy Park Hotel included the original redesign of the bar by artist Julian Schnabel; it's like the great room in the

country estate of some slightly nutty 21st-century Venetian prince. Even so, it's demoted one star for the pricey drinks. ***2 Lexington Ave. (at Gramercy Park N.). ☎ 212/920-3300. www.gramercyparkhotel.com. Subway: 6 to 23rd St.***

★ **Rusty Knot** WEST VILLAGE This determinedly downscale, nautically themed bar/restaurant is packing 'em in on West Street across from the Hudson River. It's an agreeable spot to drink beer, play pool, and watch the river sunsets. ***425 West St. (at 11th St.). ☎ 212/645-5668. www.therustyknot.com. Subway: 1 to Christopher St./Sheridan Sq.***

★★ **79th Street Boat Basin** UPPER WEST SIDE When spring finally arrives, nature-starved New Yorkers flock here to sip beer on the outdoor patio, mingle under limestone arches, and gaze out at the Hudson River. This is as much a casual restaurant as it is a bar, with hamburgers, hot dogs, and "garden burgers" sizzling on an outdoor grill. ***79th Street Boat Basin, 79th St. & the Hudson River. ☎ 212/496-5542. www.boatbasincafe.com. Subway: 1/9 to 79th St.***

★ **Spitzer's Corner** LOWER EAST SIDE This atmospheric American gastropub was named for the dress shop that occupied the space for 50 years—a nod to the Lower East Side's storied history. Spitzer's has 40 craft beers on tap and an extensive collection of bottled beers, excellent wines by the glass, and a full bar. A seasonal menu features creative twists on classic comfort foods. ***101 Rivington St. (at Ludlow St.). ☎ 212/228-0027. www.spitzerscorner.com. Subway: F to Delancey St; J/M/Z to Essex St.***

★ **Tír Na Nóg** MIDTOWN WEST New York is packed with Irish bars, but this standout makes you feel as if you've landed on a patch of the Emerald Isle. The friendly bartenders, Murphy's on tap, and lively music make for an authentic Celtic pub experience. ***5 Penn Plaza (at Eighth Ave., btw. 33rd & 34th sts.). ☎ 212/630-0249. www.tirnanognyc.com. Subway: A/C/E to 34th St./Penn Station.***

Zum Schneider EAST VILLAGE Just what Alphabet City needed: a genuine indoor Bavarian beer garden. With its long tables and bench seating, this is a *sehr gut* place to go with a group. ***107 Ave. C (at 7th St.). ☎ 212/598-1098. www.zumschneider.com. Subway: F to Second Ave.; L to First Ave.***

The mural at the King Cole Bar.

Organic Bloody Marys at Spitzer's Corner.

Dance Clubs

★ **Cielo** MEATPACKING DISTRICT This ultracool space offers top DJs, a state-of-the-art sound system, and an electric ambience sans the snooty attitude (and dumbed-down crowds). *18 Little W. 12th St. (btw. Ninth Ave. & Washington St.). ☎ 212/645-5700. www.cieloclub.com. $10–$20 cover. Subway: A/C/E to 14th St.*

★ **Cotton Club** HARLEM Although the legendary 1920s Harlem hot spot closed for good in 1940, the current incarnation of the club, set in an Art Deco structure 20 blocks away from the original, has good bones and swinging music. The house band—the 13-piece Cotton Club All-Stars—will have you kicking your heels. Swing to a blues and jazz show and buffet dinner ($50) on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. A gospel show/buffet brunch ($25) is held on weekends. *656 W. 125th St. (at Martin Luther King Blvd.). ☎ 888/640-7980 or 212/663-7980. www.cottonclub-newyork.com. Subway: 1/9 to 125th St.*

The Gay & Lesbian Scene

★★ **Brandy's Piano Bar** UPPER EAST SIDE The crowd is a mix of gay and straight, men and women, at this intimate piano bar. It's friendly and relaxed—so much so that the talented waitstaff who do most of the singing don't mind when patrons join in. *235 E. 84th St. (btw. Second & Third aves.). ☎ 212/650-1944. www.brandysnyc.com. Subway: 4/5/6 to 86th St.*

★ **Henrietta Hudson** WEST VILLAGE This popular ladies' lounge has been calling out to lipstick lesbians since 1991. The theme nights pack the house. *438 Hudson St. (at Morton St.). ☎ 212/924-3347. http://henriettahudson.com. Subway: 1/9 to Houston St.*

★★ **Splash** CHELSEA Welcome to gay heaven: This is a world of beautiful bartenders, mirrors everywhere the eye can see, and New York's best drag queens. Few theme nights anywhere are more successful than Musical Mondays: These sing-alongs draw a devoted mixed gay/straight crowd. *50 W. 17th St. (btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.). ☎ 212/691-0073. www.splashbar.com. Subway: F/M to 14th St.; 4/5/6/N/R/L/Q/W to 14th St./Union Sq.*

9 The Best **Arts & Entertainment**

Arts & Entertainment Best Bets

Most **Unusual Venue**
Bargemusic, *Fulton Ferry Landing, Brooklyn (p 141)*

Best **Free Concerts**
New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Park, *Central Park (p 141)*

Best **World Music**
S.O.B.'s, *204 Varick St. (p 146)*

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Best **Classical Dance Troupe**
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Best **Modern Dance Troupe**
Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, *Joan Weill Center for Dance, 405 W. 55th St. (p 141)*

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Best **Repertory Theater Group**
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Best **New Comedians**
Gotham Comedy Club, *34 W. 22nd St. (p 147)*

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Most **Unforgettable Visual Spectacle**
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Smalls, *183 W. 10th St. (p 145)*
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Best **Find**
St. Nick's Jazz Pub, *773 St. Nicholas Ave. (p 146)*

Most **Cutting-Edge Major Venue**
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Best **Place to See Shakespeare**
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Best **Church Concert Series**
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Left: Jazzing it up at Lenox Lounge. Previous page: Louis C.K. performing at Carolines.

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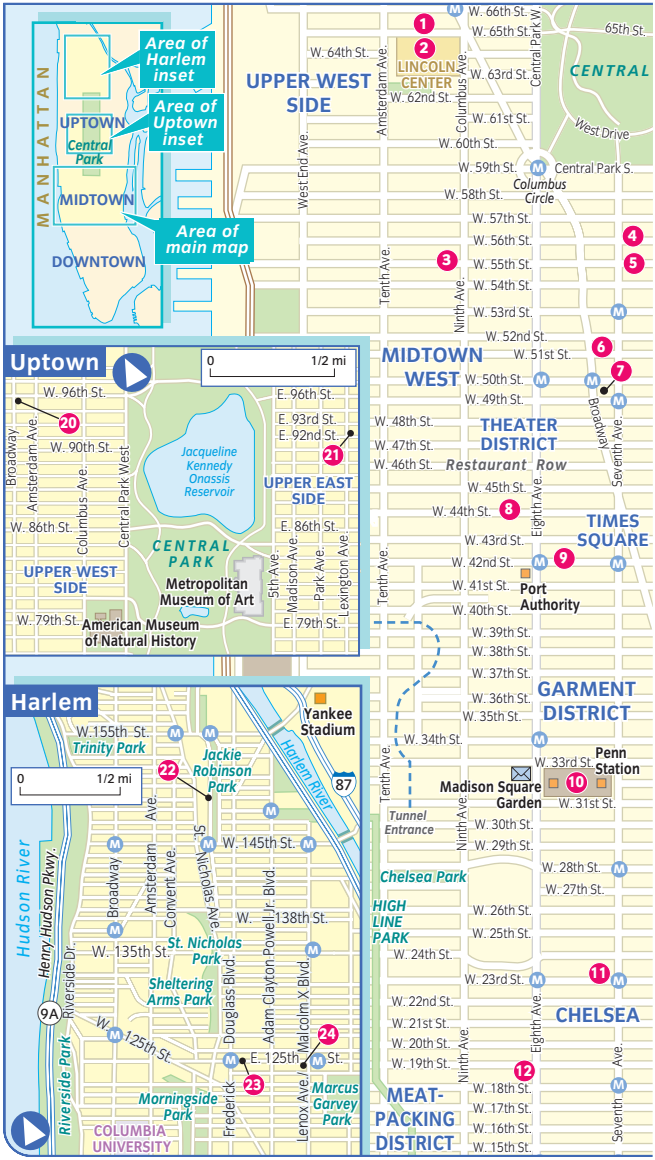
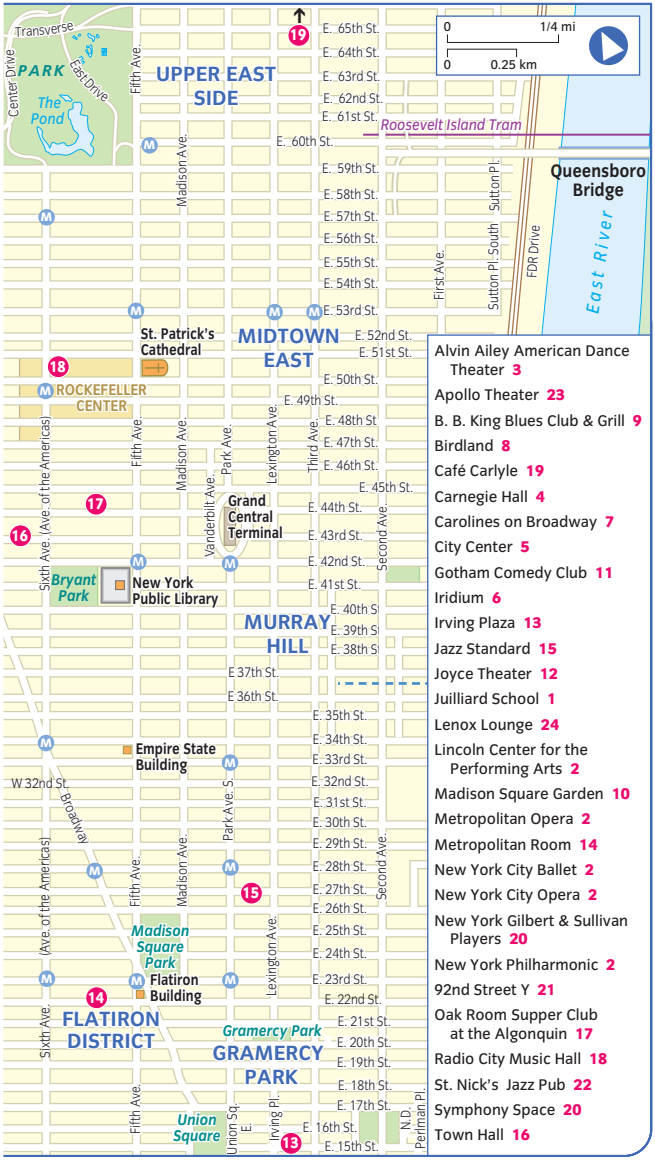
Midtown & Uptown A&E





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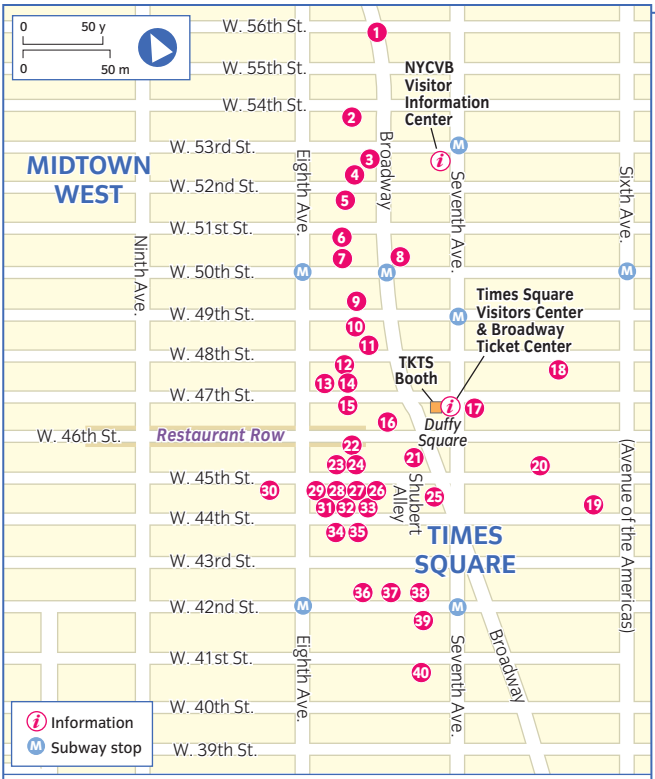

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New York **A&E A to Z**

Classical Music

★ **Bargemusic** BROOKLYN Talk about original—this permanently docked steel barge at the foot of the Brooklyn Bridge is a primo chamber music concert hall. The intimate space hosts string quartets, world folk songs, and piano sonatas. ***At Fulton Ferry Landing (just south of the Brooklyn Bridge), Brooklyn. ☎ 718/624-2083. www.bargemusic.org. Tickets $15–$45. Subway: 2/3 to Clark St.; A/C to High St.***

★★★ **Juilliard School** LINCOLN CENTER America's premier music school sponsors more than 500 concerts a year, most at no charge. ***60 Lincoln Center Plaza (Broadway at 65th St.). ☎ 212/799-5000. www.juilliard.edu. Free admission to most shows; select performances at local jazz clubs $25. Subway: 1/9 to 66th St.***

★★★ **New York Philharmonic** LINCOLN CENTER Founded in 1842, this is one of the most talented symphonies on the planet. The summertime **Concerts in the Park** in Central Park are magical evenings of music and fireworks. ***Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, Broadway & 65th St. ☎ 212/875-5656 for audience services, 212/875-5030 for box office information, or 212/721-6500 for tickets. http://nyphil.org. Tickets $32–$133. Subway: 1/9 to 66th St.***

Dance

★★ **Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater** MIDTOWN WEST This world-renowned modern dance company is located in the eight-floor Joan Weill Center for Dance, the largest facility dedicated to dance in the country. ***Joan Weill Center for Dance, 405 W. 55th St. (at Ninth Ave.). ☎ 212/405-9000. www.alvinailey.org. Tickets $33–$78. Subway: 1/2/3/9/A/C to 59 St./Columbus Circle. Map p 138.***

★★ **City Center** MIDTOWN WEST The sightlines are terrific from all corners in this newly renovated theater, where you can see innovative dance works, the Tony award–winning *Encores! Great American Musicals in Concert* series, or productions from the Manhattan Theatre Club. ***131 W. 55th St. (btw. Sixth***

The Allen Room at Lincoln Center.

& Seventh aves.). ☎ *877/247-0430. www.citycenter.org. Tickets $10–$150. Subway: F/N/Q/R/W to 57th St.; B/D/E to Seventh Ave.*

★★ **Joyce Theater** CHELSEA Built as a movie house, the Art Deco Joyce has become a splendid modern dance center. Its sister theater, the **Joyce SoHo** (155 Mercer St.), is a former firehouse and hosts experimental works. *175 Eighth Ave. (at 19th St.).* ☎ *212/242-0800. www.joyce.org. Tickets $10–$39 Subway: C/E to 23rd St.; 1/9 to 18th St.*

★★★ **New York City Ballet** LINCOLN CENTER The legendary George Balanchine founded this stellar company. *At the New York State Theater, Lincoln Center, Broadway & 64th St.* ☎ *212/870-5570. www.nycballet.com. Tickets $20–$135. Subway: 1/9 to 66th St.*

Landmark Venues

★★★ **Apollo Theater** HARLEM A legendary institution, with annual jazz concerts and a popular Wednesday-night Amateur Night. Check out the calendar for the Apollo Music Café series in the newly renovated third-floor Soundstage. *See p 66.*

★★★ **Brooklyn Academy of Music** BROOKLYN Just 25 minutes by subway from Midtown, BAM is the place for cutting-edge theater, opera, dance, and music. *30 Lafayette Ave. (off Flatbush Ave.), Brooklyn.* ☎ *718/636-4100. www.bam.org. Ticket prices vary. Subway: 2/3/4/5/M/N/Q/R/W to Pacific St./Atlantic Ave.*

★★★ **Carnegie Hall** MIDTOWN WEST Perhaps the world's most famous performance space, Carnegie Hall features everything from orchestral classics to solo sitar. The **Isaac Stern Auditorium,** the 2,804-seat main hall, welcomes visiting orchestras from around the world. There's also the intimate 268-seat **Weill Recital Hall,** and the ornate underground 600-seat **Zankel Hall.** Tickets for the 1-hour tours are available at the box office. 🕘 *1 hr. (for tour). 881 Seventh Ave. (at 56th St.).* ☎ *212/247-7800. www.carnegiehall.org. Tickets $15–$88. Tours: $10 adults, $8 students & seniors, and $4 children under 12 (Mon–Fri 11:30am, 2pm & 3pm; Sat 11:30am & 12:30pm; Sun 12:30pm). Subway: A/B/C/D/1/9 to Columbus Circle; N/Q/R/W to 57th St./Seventh Ave.*

Heavenly Sounds

New York churches may play traditional hymns during their religious services, but many also host afternoon and evening concerts in a variety of secular styles, from classical to opera, from instrumental to thrilling soloists. And the price is right: A few concerts require tickets, but most have a "requested donation" from $2 to $10. Check the websites for schedules. Some of the best include: **Church of the Transfiguration** (1 E. 29th St.; www.littlechurch.org), **St. Bartholomew** (325 Park Ave.; www.stbarts.org), **St. Paul's Chapel and Trinity Church** (p 16), **The Cathedral of St. John the Divine** (p 65), and **St. Ignatius Loyola** (980 Park Ave.; www.saintignatiusloyola.org).

★★★ **Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts** UPPER WEST SIDE A multimillion-dollar project has thoroughly modernized the concert halls and performance spaces of this world-famous arts complex. See listings for the **Juilliard School** (p 141), **New York Philharmonic** (p 141), **New York City Ballet** (p 142), **Metropolitan Opera** (p 146), and **New York City Opera** (p 146) for more information. *10 Lincoln Center Plaza (Broadway from 62nd–66th sts.). ☎ 212/875-5456. www.lincolncenter.org. Ticket prices vary. Subway: 1/9 to 66th St.*

Madison Square Garden GARMENT DISTRICT The most famous names in popular music play this cavernous 20,000-seat arena. *Seventh Ave. (from 31st–33rd sts.). ☎ 212/465-MSG1 (465-6741). www.thegarden.com. Ticket prices vary. Subway: A/C/E/1/2/3/9 to 34th St.*

★★ **92nd Street Y** UPPER EAST SIDE Forget what you know about the YMCA—this Jewish community center offers concerts, literary readings, and superb cultural events with the top newsmakers of the day. *1395 Lexington Ave. (at 92nd St.). ☎ 212/415-5500. www.92y.org. Ticket prices vary. Subway: 4/5/6 to 86th St.; 6 to 96th St.*

★★ **Public Theater** NOHO Come here for groundbreaking stagings of Shakespeare's plays as well as new plays, classical dramas, and solo performances. *425 Lafayette St. (btwn. Astor Place & E. 4th St.). ☎ 800/276-2392. www.publictheater.org. Ticket prices vary. Subway: 6 to Astor Place.*

★★ **Radio City Music Hall** MIDTOWN WEST This stunning 6,200-seat Art Deco theater is home to the annual Christmas Spectacular and the Rockettes. *See p 8.*

A street fair held by 92nd Street Y.

★ **Symphony Space** UPPER WEST SIDE Now in its 30th year, this innovative institution includes the **Peter Jay Sharp Theatre** and the **Leonard Nimoy Thalia Theater** and offers a varied program of dance, film, readings, and music. *2537 Broadway (at 95th St.). ☎ 212/864-1414. www.symphonyspace.org. Tickets $25–$40. Subway: 1/2/3/9 to 96th St.*

★ **Town Hall** MIDTOWN WEST A National Historic Site, this intimate space has outstanding acoustics and performers ranging from Judy Collins to Ornette Coleman, the Klezmatics to flamenco singers. *123 W. 43rd St. (btw. Sixth & Seventh aves.). ☎ 212/840-2824. www.thetownhall-nyc.org. Tickets $24–$150. Subway: N/Q/R/S/W/1/2/3/7/9 to 42nd St./Times Sq.; B/D/F/M to 42nd St.*

Live Music

Arlene's Grocery LOWER EAST SIDE A casual rock music club with a good sound system; great bang for the buck. *95 Stanton St. (btw. Ludlow & Orchard sts.). ☎ 212/995-1652. www.arlenesgrocery.net. $8–$10 cover; Mon free. Subway: F to Second Ave.*

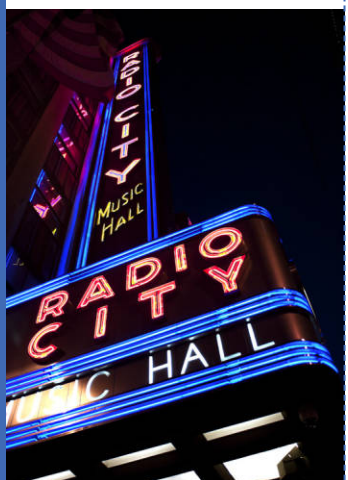
★ **B. B. King Blues Club & Grill** THEATER DISTRICT This 550-seat venue plays the blues (naturally) as well as pop, funk, and country. A Beatles Brunch is performed on Sundays. *237 W. 42nd St. (btw. Seventh & Eighth aves.). ☎ 212/997-4144. www.bbkingblues.com. Tickets $15–$100. Subway: A/C/E/Q/W/1/2/3/7/9 to 42nd St.*

★★ **Birdland** MIDTOWN WEST A legendary jazz club and one of the city's favorites. *315 W. 44th St. (btw. Eighth & Ninth aves.). ☎ 212/581-3080. www.birdlandjazz.com. Tickets $10–$40. Subway: A/C/E to 42nd St.*

★ **Blue Note** GREENWICH VILLAGE Cool-jazz fans take note: This Village spot has an excellent sound system and sightlines. *131 W. 3rd St. (at Sixth Ave.). ☎ 212/475-8592. www.bluenote.net. Tickets $20–$55. Subway: A/B/C/D/E/F/M to W. 4th St.*

★★ **Bowery Ballroom** LOWER EAST SIDE Another Art Deco wonder—this one with a big stage and good sightlines from every corner. Alt-rockers such as the Strokes perform here, as do artists like Emmylou Harris. *6 Delancey St. (at Bowery). ☎ 212/533-2111. www.boweryballroom.com. Tickets $13–$40. Subway: F/J/M/Z to Delancey St.*

Radio City Music Hall.



★ **Café Carlyle** UPPER EAST SIDE This classic cabaret lounge was once the domain of the late Bobby Short. Now it's the venue for a rotating lineup of musical stars, and Woody Allen and his New Orleans–style jazz band perform most Mondays. *Carlyle Hotel, 35 E. 76th St. ☎ 212/744-1600. www.thecarlyle.com. Tickets $55–$170. Subway: 6 to 77th St.*

★ **Iridium** THEATER DISTRICT Guitar great Les Paul performed at this glamorous jazz club regularly before he passed away in 2009. Today the club's Les Paul Guitar Tributes are held every Monday. The Iridium also hosts tributes to jazz greats like Thelonious Monk and Charles Mingus. *1650 Broadway (at 51st St.). ☎ 212/582-2121. www.iridiumjazzclub.com. Tickets $31–$50. Subway: 1/9 to 50th St.*

Irving Plaza GRAMERCY PARK Having reclaimed its rightful name, this midsize music hall remains a prime stop for rock bands like the Black Crowes and the B-52s. *17 Irving Place (at 15th St.). ☎ 212/777-1224. www.irvingplaza.com. Tickets $20–$55. Subway: L/N/R/4/5/6 to 14th St./Union Sq.*

★★ **Jazz Standard** MURRAY HILL One of the city's largest jazz clubs, Jazz Standard has a retro vibe and the best food of any club. (It's part of, and downstairs from, **Blue Smoke,** a barbecue joint.) *116 E. 27th St. (btw. Park Ave. S. & Lexington Ave.). ☎ 212/576-2232. www.jazzstandard.net. $20–$35 cover. Subway: 6 to 28th St.*

★★ **Lenox Lounge** HARLEM This beautifully renovated and historically accurate gem features top jazz vocalists, trios, and quartets. *288 Malcolm X Blvd. (Lenox Ave.*

Birdland jazz.

btwn. 124th & 125th sts.). ☎ 212/427-0253. http://lenoxlounge.com. $3–$20 cover, $16 drink minimum. Subway: 2/3 to 125th St.

★★ **Mercury Lounge** LOWER EAST SIDE The ideal live-music rock-'n'-roll bar. *217 E. Houston St. (btw. Essex & Ludlow sts.). ☎ 212/260-4700. www.mercuryloungenyc.com. $10–$12 cover; some shows require tickets. Subway: F to Second Ave.*

★★ **Metropolitan Room** FLATIRON DISTRICT This sexy spot gets raves as one of the best cabarets and concert venues in town. *34 W. 22nd St. (btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.). ☎ 212/206-0440. http://metropolitanroom.com. $15–$35 cover; two-drink minimum. Subway: N/R to 23rd St.*

★★ **Oak Room Supper Club at the Algonquin** MIDTOWN For a night on the town, this combo is hard to beat: a top-notch cabaret supper club in a legendary hotel (the Algonquin; p 154). *The Algonquin Hotel, 59 W. 44th St. (btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.). ☎ 212/840-6800. www.algonquinhotel.com. $50–$60 cover; $30 food/beverage minimum or $60 prix-fixe supper. Subway: B/D/F/M to 42nd St.*

★★ **Smalls** GREENWICH VILLAGE *New York* magazine calls this intimate club "the quintessential jazz dive," and it's a holy hangout for jazz aficionados who don't mind the subterranean space and unforgiving wooden chairs. *183 W. 10th St. (btw. Seventh Ave. S. & W. 4th St.). ☎ 212/*

Broadway Theaters

In the Big Apple you'll find a kaleidoscopic mix of big-budget blockbusters and alternative, experimental shows. Broadway is the place to see glorious spectacles such as *The Producers,* classics like *12 Angry Men,* and first-run hits such as *Proof.* Casts often include faces you'll recognize from the big screen: Kevin Spacey, Patrick Stewart, and Glenn Close, to name a few. And these days, even the smaller and alternative shows are frequently lit by star power (Tim Robbins's Actors' Gang are regulars at the Public Theater, p 143). For information on tickets see "Getting Broadway Tickets" (p 147); for a list of theaters, see p 148 or the map on p 140.

The Majestic Theatre, home to Phantom of the Opera.

252-5091. www.smallsjazzclub.com. $20 cover ($10 after 1am). Subway: A/B/C/D/E/F/M to W. 4th St.

★★ **S.O.B.'s** SOHO This top world-music venue features Brazilian, Caribbean, and Latin beats. The music is so hot you won't be able to stay in your seat. ***204 Varick St. (at West Houston St.). ☎ 212/243-4940. www.sobs.com. $10–$32 cover. Subway: 1/9 to Houston St.***

★★ **St. Nick's Jazz Pub** HARLEM Unpretentious St. Nick's in Harlem's Sugar Hill district has great live entertainment every night. It draws the famous (Roy Hargrove, James Carter) and many lesser-knowns, all of whom partake in the late-night jam sessions. ***773 St. Nicholas Ave. (at 149th St.). ☎ 212/283-9728. http://stnicksjazzpub.net. No cover. Subway: A/C/D/B to 145th St.***

The Village Vanguard GREENWICH VILLAGE Since 1935, this club has been showcasing jazz artists. Many of the greats, including Sonny Rollins and John Coltrane, have recorded live jazz albums here. ***178 Seventh Ave. S. (just below 11th St.). ☎ 212/255-4037. www.villagevanguard.com. Tickets $20–$25 & one-drink minimum. Subway: 1/2/3/9 to 14th St.***

Opera

★★★ **Metropolitan Opera** LINCOLN CENTER Opera aficionados consider this one of the most electrifying companies in the world. ***At the Metropolitan Opera House, Lincoln Center, Broadway & 64th St. ☎ 212/362-6000. www.metoperafamily.org. Tickets $17–$295. Subway: 1/9 to 66th St.***

★ **New York City Opera** LINCOLN CENTER NYC Opera's repertoire includes more modern and experimental works than the Met's (above), but the singers are less well known. ***At the New York State Theater, Lincoln Center, Broadway & 64th St. ☎ 212/870-5570. www.nycopera.com. Tickets $12–$140. Subway: 1/9 to 66th St.***

Lenox Lounge in Harlem.

Getting Broadway Tickets

If your heart is set on seeing a particular show, buy tickets in advance from **TeleCharge** (☎ 212/239-6200; www.telecharge.com) or **Ticketmaster** (☎ 212/307-4100; www.ticketmaster.com). Or save up to 50% on tickets through the free membership programs at **www.broadwaybox.com**, **www.broadway.com**, **www.playbill.com**, or **www.theatermania.com**. **Same-day tickets** for many top Broadway, Off-Broadway, and Lincoln Center shows can be bought in person at the **TKTS booths** (☎ 212/912-9770; www.tdf.org) in Times Square on the pedestrian island called Duffy Square at 47th Street and Broadway (for evening performances get to TKTS on Mon & Wed–Sat from 3–8pm, Tues 2–8pm, and Sun 3pm to half-hour before curtain time; for matinees, be at TKTS on Wed and Sat 10am–2pm, Sun 11am–3pm). No evening tickets are sold from 10am to 2pm at Times Square. The **South Street Seaport TKTS booth** (199 Water St.) is located at the corner of Front and John streets, near the Resnick/Prudential building (daily Mon–Sat 11am–6pm, Sun 11am–4pm). At TKTS Seaport, matinee tickets are sold only on the day before the performance. A TKTS booth has opened in **Downtown Brooklyn** (1 MetroTech Center, at Jay St. & Myrtle Ave.; Tues–Sat 11am–6pm).

Most tickets are sold at half-price, though some are discounted only 25%, but **you'll have to pay with cash or traveler's checks**—no plastic. A $4 TKTS service charge is added.

★ **New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players** MIDTOWN Lighthearted operetta is the ticket here, and no one does it better. The troupe performs at Symphony Space (p 143). *Symphony Space, 2537 Broadway (at 95th St.). ☎ 212/864-5400. http://nygasp.org. Tickets $49–$82. Subway: 1/2/3/9 to 96th St.*

Stand-up Comedy

★★ **Carolines on Broadway** THEATER DISTRICT Hot headliners come to this upscale club—Jerry Seinfeld, Joel McHale, and Patton Oswalt have all taken the stage. *1626 Broadway (btw. 49th & 50th sts.). ☎ 212/757-4100. www.carolines.com. $15–$49 cover. Subway: N/R to 49th St.; 1/9 to 50th St.*

★ **Comedy Cellar** GREENWICH VILLAGE This intimate subterranean club is a favorite among comedy cognoscenti. It gets names you'd expect (Dave Chappelle, Chris Rock) and a few you wouldn't (William Shatner). *117 Macdougal St. (btw. Minetta Lane & W. 3rd St.). ☎ 212/254-3480. www.comedycellar.com. $10–$24 cover. Subway: A/B/C/D/E/F/M/S to W. 4th St.*

★ **Gotham Comedy Club** FLATIRON DISTRICT Big names are frequently on the marquee in this large, 1920s-era space next door to the Chelsea Hotel. The "New Talent Showcase" is a staple. *208 W. 23rd St. (btw. Seventh & Eighth aves.). ☎ 212/367-9000. www.gothamcomedyclub.com. $12–$30 cover. Subway: F/N/R to 23rd St.*

Broadway **Theaters**

Al Hirschfeld. 302 W. 45th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Ambassador. 219 W. 49th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

American Airlines. 227 W. 42nd St. ☎ 212/719-1300.

August Wilson. 245 W. 52nd St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Belasco. 111 W. 44th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Bernard B. Jacobs. 242 W. 45th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Biltmore. 261 W. 47th St. ☎ 212/239-6222.

Booth. 222 W. 45th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Broadhurst. 235 W. 44th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Broadway. 1681 Broadway. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Brooks Atkinson. 256 W. 47th St. ☎ 212/719-4099.

Circle in the Square. 1633 Broadway. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Cort. 138 W. 48th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Ethel Barrymore. 243 W. 47th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Eugene O'Neill. 230 W. 49th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Foxwoods. 213 W. 42nd St. ☎ 212/307-4100.

Gershwin. 222 W. 51st St. ☎ 212/586-6510.

Helen Hayes. 240 W. 44th St. ☎ 212/944-9450.

Imperial. 249 W. 45th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

John Golden. 252 W. 45th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Longacre. 220 W. 48th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Lunt-Fontanne. 205 W. 46th St. ☎ 212/575-9200.

Lyceum. 149 W. 45th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Majestic. 245 W. 44th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Marquis. 302 W. 45th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Minskoff. 200 W. 45th St. ☎ 212/869-0550.

Music Box. 239 W. 45th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Nederlander. 208 W. 41st St. ☎ 212/921-8000.

Neil Simon. 250 W. 52nd St. ☎ 212/757-8646.

New Amsterdam. 214 W. 42nd St. ☎ 212/282-2900.

New Victory. 209 W. 42nd St. ☎ 646/223-3020.

Palace. 1564 Broadway. ☎ 212/730-8200.

Plymouth. 236 W. 45th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Richard Rodgers. 226 W. 46th St. ☎ 212/221-1211.

St. James. 246 W. 44th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Shubert. 225 W. 44th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Studio 54. 254 W. 54th St. ☎ 212/719-1300.

Vivian Beaumont. 150 W. 65th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Walter Kerr. 219 W. 48th St. ☎ 212/239-6200.

Winter Garden. 1634 Broadway. ☎ 212/239-6200. ●

10 The Best **Hotels**

Hotel Best Bets

Most **Beautiful New Design**
The Andaz Wall Street $$$ *75 Wall St. (p 155)*

Most **Romantic**
Inn at Irving Place $$$ *56 Irving Place (p 157)*

Hippest Hotel
The Ace Hotel $$–$$$ *20 W. 29th St. (p 154)*
Andaz Fifth Avenue $$–$$$ *485 Fifth Ave. (p 154)*

Best **Boutique Hotel**
Crosby Street Hotel $$$ *79 Crosby St. (p 155)*
Hotel Giraffe $$ *365 Park Ave. S. (p 157)*

Best **Old-School Glamour**
The Carlyle $$$$ *35 E. 76th St. (p 155)*

Best **Hidden Gem**
Gild Hall $$ *15 Gold St. (p 156)*

Best **Place to Channel Dorothy Parker**
The Algonquin $$ *59 W. 44th St. (p 154)*

Most **Luxurious Hotel**
The Peninsula—New York $$$$ *700 Fifth Ave. (p 159)*

Best **Budget Hotel**
La Quinta Inn $ *17 W. 32nd St. (p 158)*
Hotel Thirty-Thirty $ *30 E. 30th St. (p 157)*

Best **for Kids**
Hotel Beacon $$$$ *230 Broadway (p 157)*

Best **Value**
Belvedere Hotel $$$ *319 W. 48th St. (p 155)*

Best **Theme Hotel**
The Library Hotel $$$ *299 Madison Ave. (p 159)*

Most **Charming B&B**
The Inn on 23rd $$ *131 W. 23rd St. (p 157)*

Best for **Hobnobbing with Celebrities**
The Mercer $$$ *147 Mercer St. (p 159)*

Best **European-Style Hotel**
Fitzpatrick Grand Central Hotel $$ *141 E. 44th St. (p 156)*

Best **Views**
Ritz-Carlton New York $$$ *2 West St. (p 160)*

Best for **Business Travelers**
Wall Street Inn $$ *9 S. William St. (p 161)*
The Benjamin $$$ *125 E. 50th St. (p 155)*

Previous page: The funky lobby of the Crosby Street Hotel.

Downtown Hotels

Abingdon Guest House 3
Andaz Wall Street 11
Crosby Street Hotel 6
The Gansevoort 1
Gild Hall 10
The Greenwich Hotel 9
The Jane 2
The Mercer 5
Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park 13
Soho Grand Hotel 8
Trump SoHo 7
Wall Street Inn 12
Washington Square Hotel 4

Midtown & Uptown Hotels

- Ace Hotel 8
- Affinia Gardens 23
- The Algonquin 15
- Andaz Fifth Avenue 13
- Belvedere Hotel 2
- The Benjamin 19
- The Carlyle 24
- Fitzpatrick Grand Central Hotel 17
- Hotel Beacon 1
- Hotel Giraffe 7
- Hotel Roger Williams 10
- Hotel Thirty-Thirty 9
- The Inn at Irving Place 6
- The Inn on 23rd 4
- InterContinental New York Times Square 3
- La Quinta Inn 11
- Le Parker-Meridien 21
- The Library Hotel 12
- The Loews Regency 22
- The Muse 16
- The Peninsula—New York 20
- Sofitel New York 14
- W Union Square 5
- Waldorf=Astoria 18

Transverse
PARK
East Drive
The Pond
Center Drive
Fifth Ave.
UPPER EAST SIDE
Madison Ave.
E. 66th St.
E. 65th St.
E. 64th St.
E. 63rd St.
E. 62nd St.
E. 61st St.
E. 60th St.
Roosevelt Island Tram
York Ave.
Queensboro Bridge
Sutton Pl.
Sutton Pl. South
E. 59th St.
E. 58th St.
E. 57th St.
E. 56th St.
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E. 52nd St.
E. 51st St.
St. Patrick's Cathedral
MIDTOWN EAST
ROCKEFELLER CENTER
Beekman Place
Mitchell Place
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E. 38th St
Fifth Ave.
Madison Ave.
Park Ave.
Lexington Ave.
Third Ave.
First Ave.
Second Ave.
FDR Drive
UNITED NATIONS
Grand Central Terminal
Vanderbilt Ave.
Sixth Ave. (Ave. of the Americas)
Bryant Park
New York Public Library
Queens-Midtown Tunnel
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E. 14th St.
Empire State Building
W 32nd St.
Broadway
Park Ave. S.
Madison Square Park
Flatiron Building
Lexington Ave.
Asser Levy Pl.
Ave. C
East River
FLATIRON DISTRICT
Gramercy Park
GRAMERCY PARK
PETER COOPER VILLAGE
Union Square
Union Sq. W.
Union Sq. E.
Irving Pl.
N.D. Perlman Pl.
STUYVESANT TOWN
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New York Hotels A to Z

A little bit country, a little bit rock 'n' roll: the Ace Hotel.

Abingdon Guest House WEST VILLAGE This nine-room B&B is tucked away in two 19th-century town houses just blocks from Hudson River Park and the High Line (p 69). Oriental rugs, exposed brick, and elegant furnishings make this a romantic hideaway. ***21 Eighth Ave. (btw. Jane & 12th sts.). ☎ 212/243-5384. www.abingdonguesthouse.com. 9 units. Suites $169–$269. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: A/C/E/1/2/3 to 14th St.***

★★ **Ace Hotel** FLATIRON DISTRICT Ultra-hip but attitude-free, this Pacific Coast transplant has some of the coolest amenities in town: Gibson guitars and turntables in rooms! Pembleton wool blankets on beds! Google Chrome laptops for use or purchase! Mini-Heineken kegs in full-size fridges! On top of that, there's a room for every budget (the cheapest option is bunk beds). With a warm, buzzing lobby, a hot restaurant (**the Breslin;** p 117), and state-of-the-art shops, the Ace is NYC's hotel du jour. ***20 W. 29th St. (btw. Fifth Ave. & Broadway). ☎ 646/214-5742. www.acehotel.com/newyork. 273 units. Doubles $199–$799. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: N/R to 28th St.***

★ kids **Affinia Gardens** UPPER EAST SIDE Each suite in this all-suites property (formerly Lyden Gardens) includes a small but fully equipped kitchen so you can save money by preparing some of your own meals. It's pet-friendly, too, with a Jet Set Pets program (featuring local dog walking, grooming, training, and boutique products). ***215 E. 64th St. (btw. Second & Third aves.). ☎ 212/355-1230. www.affinia.com. 131 units. Suites $379–$999. AE MC, V, Disc. Subway: 4/5/6/N/R/W to 59th St.***

★ **The Algonquin** MIDTOWN WEST Now part of the iconic Marriott Autograph Collection, this 1902 hotel is a literary landmark (home of the Round Table, frequented by Dorothy Parker and other writers; p 33). The lobby is a great place to soak up vintage NYC atmosphere. ***59 W. 44th St. (btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.). ☎ 888/304-2047. www.algonquinhotel.com. 174 units. Doubles $299–$699. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: B/D/F/M to 42nd St.***

★★ **Andaz Fifth Avenue** MIDTOWN Behind a nameless facade lies one of the city's smartest new hotels. The striking interior of this historic 1916 building has become a thoughtful homage to the city, with tall, factory-style shutters and edgy artworks. Rooms have extravagantly high ceilings, rainfall shower heads, and soaking tubs for aching feet. Some have spectacular views of the

New York Public Library, across the street. *485 Fifth Ave. (at 41st St.). ☎ 212/601-1233. www.newyork.5thavenue.andaz.hyatt.com. 184 units. Doubles from $325; suites from $645. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 4/5/6 to Grand Central and B/D/F to Bryant Park/42nd St.*

★★★ **Andaz Wall Street** WALL STREET The dazzling lobby, bar, and restaurant were designed by David Rockwell, but the warm welcome is all Andaz. So what if the minimalist rooms lack the sparkle of the public spaces? The high ceilings and oak floors give the rooms a solid, grounded feel. Plus, you gotta love the complimentary Wi-Fi and minibar (sans alcohol). *75 Wall St. (at Water St.). ☎ 212/590-1234. www.newyork.wallstreet.andaz.hyatt.com. 253 units. Doubles $295–$495. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 2/3 to Wall St./William St. or 4/5 to Wall St.*

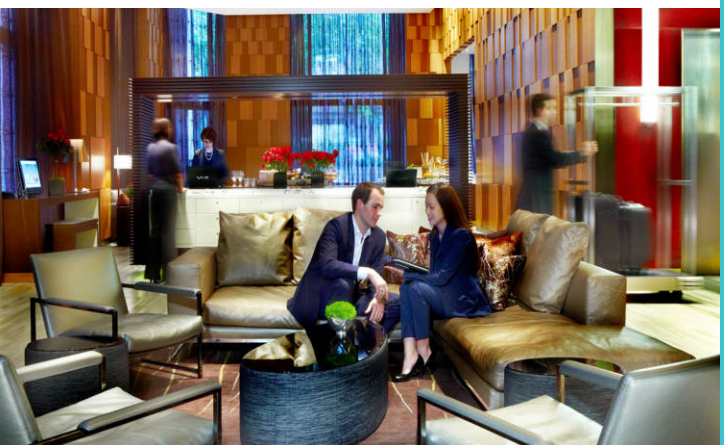
★ **Belvedere Hotel** MIDTOWN WEST With a prime location in the Theater District, a warm elegance, and reasonable rates, the Belvedere is a very good value—plus each room has a kitchenette with mini-fridge, sink, and microwave. *319 W. 48th St. (at Eighth Ave.). ☎ 888/HOTEL-58 (468-3558). www.belvederehotelnyc.com. 334 units. Doubles $160–$380. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: C/E to 50th St.*

★★ **The Benjamin** MIDTOWN EAST Set in a 1927 landmark building, the Benjamin combines solid bones with top-flight service and amenities. You will be supremely comfortable here. *125 E. 50th St. (at Lexington Ave.). ☎ 212/320-8002. www.thebenjamin.com. 209 units. Doubles from $459; suites from $559. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 6 to 51st St. or E/F to Lexington Ave.*

★★★ **The Carlyle** UPPER EAST SIDE The old-school glamour in this 1930 white-glove landmark is tasteful, understated, never over-the-top. But baby, it's plenty luxe, all gleaming marble and custom fabrics. **Bemelman's Bar** is a jewel. *35 E. 76th St. (at Madison Ave.). ☎ 212/744-1600. www.thecarlyle.com. 188 units. Doubles $650–$950; suites from $950. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 6 to 51st St.; E/F to Lexington Ave.*

★★ **Crosby Street Hotel** SOHO Finding a hotel this light and irresistibly playful in the long, dark shadows of Crosby Street is a revelation. Spacious rooms are done in muted

The lobby of the Andaz Wall Street.



The Gansevoort, in the Meatpacking District.

hues—mauve, plum, apple—with plumped linens and textured fabrics. It's elegant and whimsical all at once. ***79 Crosby St. (btw. Prince & Spring sts.). ☎ 212/226-6400. http://crosbystreethotel.com. 86 units. Doubles $495–$715; suites $815–$2,250. AE, DC, MC, V. Subway: N/R to Prince St.; 6 to Spring St.***

★ Fitzpatrick Grand Central Hotel MIDTOWN EAST Attractive and intimate, this good-value Irish-owned property is a terrific choice for those who want a prime location but crave the personalized warmth of a boutique hotel. Garden rooms on the top floor have terraces. ***141 E. 44th St. (at Lexington Ave.). ☎ 800/367-7701. www.fitzpatrickhotels.com. 155 units. Doubles $225–$399. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 4/5/6/7/S to 42nd St./Grand Central.***

★ The Gansevoort MEATPACKING DISTRICT This stylish spot has transcended its annoying initial trendiness and established itself as a reliable choice for service and comfort. It has spacious rooms, a full-service spa, and a rooftop pool. **Plunge,** the rooftop bar, has 360-degree views. ***18 Ninth Ave. (at 13th St.). ☎ 877/426-7386. www.hotelgansevoort.com. 187 units. Doubles $295–$725 (duplex penthouse $5,000). AE, MC, V. Subway: A/C/E to 14th St.***

★★ Gild Hall FINANCIAL DISTRICT This little gem is tucked away in the folds of Gold Street. The pub and restaurant are right out of a Dutch Colonial painting, with rustic wood panels, period murals, and a candlelit patina. The masculine rooms upstairs—with state-of-the-art amenities, flannel throws, and walls hung with Slim Aarons' iconic photographs—are totally 21st century though. ***15 Gold St. (at Platt St.). ☎ 212/232-7700. www.thompsonhotels.com. 126 units. Doubles $237–$499 (Thompson Suite $1,200). AE, MC, V. Subway: 2/3 to Fulton St.***

★★★ The Greenwich Hotel TRIBECA No detail or expense has been spared at this beautiful small luxury hotel (whose owners include Robert De Niro), where even the bricks are handcrafted. It's meant to feel like an 88-room home—if home is a rustically elegant country manor filled with art and antiques. It's everything a hip, edgy downtown hotel isn't—and that makes it plenty hip. ***377 Greenwich St. (at N. Moore St.). ☎ 212/941-8900. www.***

The bar at Gild Hall.

greenwichhotelny.com. 88 units. Doubles $495–$725; suites $995–$1,750. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 1/9 to Franklin St.

★ Hotel Beacon UPPER WEST SIDE This solid, family-friendly choice is a short walk from Central Park (p 105) and the American Museum of Natural History (p 55). The good-value perks include large rooms with kitchenettes. *230 Broadway (at 75th St.). ☎ 800/572-4969. www.beaconhotel.com. 260 units. Doubles $205; suites $255 and up. AE, DC, MC, V. Subway: 1/2/3 to 72th St.*

★★ Hotel Giraffe FLATIRON DISTRICT This boutique property never fails to impress. Book early to snag one of the stylish, elegant guest rooms graced with high ceilings, velveteen upholstered chairs, and a soothing slate-gray palette. Deluxe rooms have small balconies. *365 Park Ave. S. (at 26th St.). ☎ 877/296-0009. www.hotelgiraffe.com. 72 units. Doubles $360–$500 w/breakfast. AE, DC, MC, V. Subway: 6 to 28th St.*

★ The Hotel Roger Williams MURRAY HILL This under-the-radar boutique hotel on Madison Avenue manages to be both hip (flatscreen TVs, iPod docking stations) and comfy (quilts on plump beds), with a buzzing mezzanine lounge. *131 Madison Ave. (at 31st St.). ☎ 888/241-3333. www.hotelrogerwilliams.com. 193 units. Doubles $365–$535. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 6 to 28th St.*

Hotel Thirty-Thirty MURRAY HILL This is a good bet for travelers who want a moderately priced hotel with a sense of style—and at press time a major renovation was fashionably upgrading all rooms. The location is just 4 blocks from the Empire State Building (p 7) and 12 blocks from Grand Central (p 7).

The discreet Inn at Irving Place.

Look for discounted rates on the hotel website. *30 E. 30th St. (btw. Madison & Park aves.). ☎ 800/497-6028. www.thirtythirty-nyc.com. 275 units. Doubles $150–$340. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 6 to 28th St.*

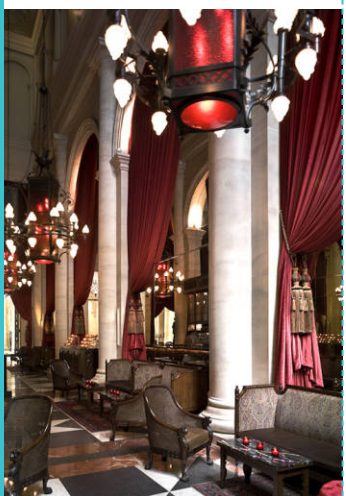
★★ Inn at Irving Place GRAMERCY Bored with sleek minimalism? This 170-year-old town house marries 19th-century elegance with 21st-century luxe (antique beds plumped up with Frette linens). Spacious rooms have antiques and art, nonworking fireplaces, and big bathrooms. *56 Irving Place (btw. 17th & 18th sts.). ☎ 800/685-1447. www.innatirving.com. 12 units. Doubles $445–$645. AE, DC, MC, V. Subway: N/R/4/5/6 to 14th St./Union Sq.*

★★ The Inn on 23rd CHELSEA There's nothing frou-frou about this handsome "urban B&B," one of Manhattan's few full-service B&Bs. Each spacious guest room has been decorated with a personal touch. Kids are welcome. *131 W. 23rd St. (btw. Sixth & Seventh aves.). ☎ 877/387-2323. www.innon23rd.com. 14 units. Doubles $175–$250. AE, MC, V. Subway: F/1/9 to 23rd St.*

A cabin room at the Jane.

★★ InterContinental New York Times Square THEATER DISTRICT The wall-length fire pit in the lobby is a warm welcome on a brisk night. Opened in 2010, this 607-room hotel has a smart location that's tucked away from the Times Square hordes. The big, handsome rooms are done in creamy champagne hues; look for luxe touches like walk-in rain showers and hand-blown bathroom glasses. Tower Avenue studios come with five-corner views. ***300 W. 44th St. (at Eighth Ave.). ☎ 888/424-6835. www.ichotelsgroup.com or www.intercontinental.com/timessquare. 607 units. Doubles $315–$630. AE, MC, V. Subway: A/C/E/1/2/3 to Times Square.***

The lobby of Le Parker-Meridien.



★ The Jane WEST VILLAGE Two-thirds of the units in this "micro hotel" are 50-square-foot spaces complete with bed (or bunk bed), flatscreen TV, Wi-Fi, A/C, and shared bathrooms—all yours for $99 a night. But with such fabulous public spaces—a massive lobby bar with fireplace, a rooftop lounge overlooking the Hudson River—who needs a big, pricey room to rattle around in? ***113 Jane St. (at the West Side Hwy.). ☎ 212/924-6700. www.thejanenyc.com. 210 units. Rooms $99–$250. AE, MC, V. Subway: A/C/E to 14th St.***

★ La Quinta Inn MIDTOWN WEST The location in the heart of Koreatown (with good Korean BBQs and karaoke bars up and down the street) is 2 blocks from the Empire State Building (p 7) and Macy's (p 95). The spacious if style-free rooms have amenities you wouldn't expect from a moderate-priced hotel, such as free Wi-Fi. Or you can enjoy the fresh air at the rooftop bar instead. ***17 W. 32nd St. (btw. Fifth Ave. & Broadway). ☎ 800/567-7720. www.applecorehotels.com or***

www.lq. com. 182 units. Doubles start at $215. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: B/D/F/M/N/R to 34th St.

★★ **Le Parker-Meridien** TIMES SQUARE The lobby's soaring atrium puts you squarely in a New York state of mind; it's a bustling spot, with a sexy Moroccan-style lobby bar (**the Knave**) in one corner and a roadhouse burger spot (**Burger Joint**—which makes one of the best burgers in the city) tucked in another. This 42-floor hotel has just refreshed its rooms in olive, orange, and brown hues, and they're looking spiffy indeed. Cheeky, too: The hotel's "Do Not Disturb" signs read "FUHGEDDABOUDIT." The rooftop pool has Central Park views. *19 W. 56th St. (btw. Sixth & Seventh aves.). ☎ 800/543-4300. www.parkermeridien.com. 725 units. Doubles $600–$800; suites from $780. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: B/D/E to Seventh Ave.*

★ **The Library Hotel** MIDTOWN EAST Each of the 10 floors here is dedicated to a major category of the Dewey Decimal System. Rooms have a Deco elegance, done in buttery yellow and loaded with books to read. The Petite Rooms are solid value. The **Writer's Den,** on the 14th floor, has the dog-eared feel of a beloved book. *299 Madison Ave. (at 41st St.). ☎ 877/793-7323. www.libraryhotel.com. 60 units. Doubles $260–$500. AE, DC, MC, V. Subway: 4/5/6/7/S to 42nd St.*

★★ kids **The Loews Regency** UPPER EAST SIDE A stay at the Regency can make you feel like a star: Guest rooms are big and service is grand. Look for NYC movers and shakers at the power-breakfast venue **540 Park.** Loews is both family- and pet-friendly. *540 Park Ave. (at 61st St.). ☎ 212/759-4100. www.loewshotels.com. 353 units. Doubles $289–$529; suites $669–$1,099. AE, DC, MC, V. Subway: 4/5/6/N/R to 59th St.*

★★ **The Mercer** SOHO Ignore the revolving door of celebs and thrill to the high-ceilinged rooms, lush linens, and big marble bathrooms. The Mercer remains one of the standard-bearers of downtown style. *147 Mercer St. (at Prince St.). ☎ 888/918-6060. www.mercerhotel.com. 75 units. Doubles $525–$950. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: N/R to Prince St.*

★ **The Muse** TIMES SQUARE If anything in the middle of Times Square can be called an oasis of calm, this is it. This chic Kimpton property has stylishly renovated rooms (some with balconies) and loads of top-drawer amenities. The Muse plays host to the NYPD on New Year's Eve. *139 W. 46th St. (btw. Broadway & Sixth Ave.). ☎ 877/692-6873. www.themuse hotel.com. 200 units. Doubles $230–$400. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: A/C/E/1/2/3 to Times Square.*

★★★ **The Peninsula—New York** MIDTOWN A dream of a hotel, almost perfect in every way. Housed in a 1905 landmark building,

The Peninsula.

The Ritz-Carlton, as seen from New York Harbor.

the Peninsula has some of the most tastefully luxurious (and priciest) rooms in town. Take the curving stairway up from the world-class spa to the 22nd-floor heated pool, with Central Park and Fifth Avenue views. ***700 Fifth Ave. (at 55th St.). ☎ 800/262-9467. www.peninsula.com. 239 units. Doubles $975–$1,175; suites $1,375–$16,000. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: E/F to Fifth Ave.***

★★★ kids **Ritz-Carlton New York, Battery Park** BATTERY PARK Newly renovated guest rooms offer luxurious comfort and a family-friendly welcome. Statue of Liberty (p 17) rooms have magnificent views of New York Harbor and telescopes to zoom in on the beauteous Lady Liberty. Upgrade to a Club Level room for daylong perks in the Club Lounge, such as complimentary food and drinks. ***2 West St. (at 1st Place). ☎ 800/241-3333. www.ritzcarlton.com. 298 units. Doubles $425–$545; suites $545–$1,395. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 4/5 to Bowling Green.***

★ **Sofitel New York** MIDTOWN WEST Built in 2000, the 30-story Sofitel has an elegant, marbled lobby with a Deco-style restaurant and bar. Rooms are standard but spacious and soundproofed. ***45 W. 44th St. (btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.). ☎ 212/354-8844. www.sofitel.com. 398 units. Doubles $494–$666. AE, DC, MC, V. Subway: B/D/F/M to 42nd St.***

★ **Soho Grand Hotel** SOHO Built as a modern ode to the neighborhood's cast-iron past, the Soho Grand attracts an entertainment-industry crowd. Rooms are small but packed with modern conveniences, and the **Grand Bar & Lounge** is an atmospheric spot for a drink. Bring Fido! ***310 W. Broadway (at Grand St.). ☎ 800/965-3000. www.sohogrand.com. 369 units. Doubles $330–$505; suites $900–$1,450. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: A/C/E/N/R/1/9 to Canal St.***

The lounge of the Sofitel.

Money-Saving Tips on Lodging

New York is one of the most expensive cities in the country—a fact you'll comprehend when you try to book a hotel. To get the best price, consider these tips. **Schedule in the off season and at off times:** Hotels charge premium rates around the Christmas holidays, for example, and prices climb sky-high during major events like the NYC Marathon. Rates at business hotels often drop on weekends, however, when rooms empty out. **Look for off-the-beaten-path locations:** A number of big chains, like Hampton Inn and Ramada Inn, offer all-suites offshoots in safe but less touristy neighborhoods. The suites provide an extra bonus: self-catering capabilities to save on meals. **Check hotel websites** for exclusive online deals. **Consider pods**—pod-style hotels, that is, offering tiny rail-inspired rooms packed with amenities—like downtown's **The Jane** (p 158) and the **Pod Hotel,** 230 E. 51st St., at Third Ave. (☎ 800/742-5945; www.thepodhotel.com). So what if your room is miniscule? You'll be too busy to spend much time there anyway.

★★ **Trump SoHo** SOHO This sleek 46-floor tower hotel opened in 2010 in a nondescript commercial neighborhood near the entrance to the Holland Tunnel. But inside all is pampering and serenity. Rooms are artfully designed, with big Turkish-marble bathrooms. And those views! It's a wide-open Hudson River panorama. *246 Spring St. (at Varick St.). ☎ 877/828-7080. www.trumpsoho.com. 391 units. Doubles $599–$659; suites $799–$859. AE, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 6 to Spring St.*

★ **Waldorf=Astoria** MIDTOWN EAST This massive Art Deco masterpiece is a genuine New York landmark. The 1,000-plus rooms mean the pace can be hectic, but rates are competitive. *301 Park Ave. (btw. 49th & 50th sts.). ☎ 800/925-3673. www.waldorfastoria.com. 1,245 units. Doubles $320–$400; suites $420–$740. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 6 to 51st St.*

★ **The Wall Street Inn** FINANCIAL DISTRICT This intimate, seven-story Lower Manhattan oasis is warm, comforting, and serene. Friendly, professional, personalized service is the hallmark. Look for discounted weekend rates. *9 S. William St. (at Broad St.). ☎ 212/747-1500. www.thewallstreetinn.com. 46 units. Doubles $159–$399. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: 2/3 to Wall St.; 4/5 to Bowling Green.*

Washington Square Hotel GREENWICH VILLAGE The rooms are smallish but pleasingly outfitted in this moderately priced hotel facing Washington Square Park. It's worth paying a few extra dollars for a south-facing room on a high floor. *103 Waverly Place (btw. Fifth & Sixth aves.). ☎ 800/222-0418. www.wshotel.com. 150 units. Doubles $244–$385. AE, MC, V. Subway: A/B/C/D/E/F/M to W. 4th St. (use 3rd St. exit).*

B&Bs & Apartment Stays

Yes, hotel prices are high in New York, and the costs climb even higher for families paying for extra people in the room. Oh, and did we mention hotel room taxes? (Tack on 14.25% to your total bill.) Save big bucks, enjoy more room, and live among the locals by staying in a B&B or a short-stay apartment in New York. (Many even let you bring your pet along.) The city has plenty of reliable operators that offer a range of lodgings, from elegant rooms in prewar apartment buildings to sunny, fully furnished apartments in historic brownstones. Fully equipped kitchens help you save big on meals. Prices can start as low as $90 a night. Check out **NY Habitat** (www.nyhabitat.com; $115–$300/night based on a 3-night stay, with weekly and monthly rates available) for furnished apartments; **City Sonnet** (www.citysonnet.com; $95–$700 double) for both hosted and unhosted lodging in apartments and artists' lofts; or **Manhattan Getaways** (www.manhattangetaways.com; $125–$165 rooms; $1,650–$1,750 apts.) for furnished rooms or private apartments. The New York page at **BedandBreakfast.com** (www.bedandbreakfast.com/manhattan-new-york.html) lists B&Bs, inns, guesthouses, and apartments for rent, and **airbnb** (www.airbnb.com) can connect you directly with NYC apartment owners who are looking to rent out their places.

★ **W Union Square** UNION SQUARE The 1911 Guardian Life Beaux Arts building has been revived with bold, clean-lined modernism. Rooms are small but *très* stylish, and the lobby bar is a lively meeting spot. ***201 Park Ave. S. (at 17th St.). ☎ 212/253-9119. www.starwoodhotels.com/whotels. 270 units. Doubles $335–$565; suites start at $710. AE, DC, DISC, MC, V. Subway: N/R/W/6/5/4 to Union Sq.***

The Art Deco Washington Square Hotel.

The Savvy Traveler

Before You Go

Government Tourist Offices

In the U.S.: NYC & Company, 810 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10019; ☎ **212/484-1200;** www.nycgo.com. **In the U.K.:** NYCVB Visitor Information Center, 36 Southwark Bridge Rd., London, SE1 9EU; ☎ **020/7202-6368.**

The Best Times to Go

July and August are hot and humid, but because the local population tries to escape, the city is far less crowded. There are plenty of free alfresco events too. December brings crowds and the highest hotel rates; January and February are relatively cheap but very chilly. But there's nothing like New York in late spring or fall when the weather is mild.

Festivals & Special Events

WINTER For information on the lighting of the **Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree,** call ☎ **212/332-6700.** On **New Year's Eve** the most famous party of them all takes place in Times Square (☎ **212/768-1560;** www.timessquarealliance.org). During **Restaurant Week** (1 week in winter and 1 week in summer, and usually extended for more than just 1 week), you can enjoy $24 prix-fixe lunch menus or $35 dinner menus at some of the best restaurants in the city (☎ **212/484-1222;** www.nycgo.com).

SPRING The **Pier Antiques Show,** the city's largest antiques show, takes place in March (http://stellashows.com for this and additional shows) as does, of course, the **St. Patrick's Day Parade** (http://nycstpatricksparade.org) on the 17th. The **Easter Parade** (☎ **212/484-1222**)—not a traditional parade, but a flamboyant fashion display along Fifth Avenue from 48th to 57th streets—is on Easter Sunday.

SUMMER All summer long, the **Lincoln Center Festival** (☎ 212/546-2656; www.lincolncenterfestival.org) celebrates the best of the performing arts from all over the world (tickets go on sale in late May). **SummerStage** (☎ 212/360-2756; www.summerstage.org) is a summer-long festival of outdoor performances in Central Park, featuring world music, pop, folk, and jazz artists, the New York Grand Opera, and the Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats, among others. At the same time and also in Central Park, well-known actors take on the Bard in the Public Theater's long-running **Shakespeare in the Park** series (http://shakespeareinthepark.org). The **Independence Day Harbor Festival and Fourth of July Fireworks Spectacular** (☎ 212/484-1222, or Macy's Visitor Center at 212/494-2922) takes place on July 4. Dance till you drop at **Midsummer Night Swing** (☎ 212/875-5456; http://new.lincolncenter.org/live), 3 weeks of outdoor dance parties held in Lincoln Center's Damrosch Park.

FALL The **West Indian–American Day Parade** (☎ 718/467-1797; http://wiadca.com), an annual Brooklyn event on Labor Day, is New York's best street festival. The **Greenwich Village Halloween Parade** (www.halloween-nyc.com) on October 31 is a flamboyant parade that everyone is welcome to join. Something everyone should do at least once is see the **Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular** (☎ 212/247-4777 or Ticketmaster at 212/307-1000; www.radiocitychristmas.com/newyork) and

Previous page: Walking the High Line elevated park.

watch the **Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade** (☎ 212/494-4495).

The Weather

The worst weather in New York is during that long week or 10 days that arrive between mid-July and August when the temperatures soar up to 100°F (38°C) with 90% humidity. Another time when you might not want to stroll around the city is midwinter, when temperatures drop to around 20°F (–7°C) and the winds whip through the concrete canyons.

Useful Websites

- **www.nycgo.com:** A wealth of free information about the city.
- **http://nymag.com:** Terrific coverage of arts and events from *New York* magazine.
- **http://newyork.timeout.com:** Full listings, restaurant reviews, shopping, and nightlife.
- **www.panynj.gov** and **www.mta.info:** Transit info.
- **www.weather.gov:** Up-to-the-minute weather.

Restaurant & Theater Reservations

We can't say it enough: Book well in advance if you're determined to eat at a particular spot or see a certain show—especially if you're visiting at a peak time. If you're determined to eat at a hot restaurant, ask for early or late hours—often tables are available before 6:30pm and after 9pm. Or ask about seating at the bar, which is often the best venue in the house anyway.

If you're interested in a popular show, call or go online for tickets well before your trip. Try **TeleCharge** (☎ 212/239-6200) or **Ticketmaster** (☎ 212/307-4100; www.ticketmaster.com). **TKTS** (p 147) offers last-minute theater seats.

Cellphones (Mobiles)

In general it's a good bet that your phone will work in New York, on either **CDMA** or **GSM wireless networks;** in fact, the largest wireless providers (that is, Verizon, AT&T, and T-Mobile) in the region have upgraded their data networks to the new higher-speed "4G" (fourth-generation wireless) standard (available only on compatible phones). However, foreign visitors may or may not be able to send SMS (text messages) overseas or receive and send data at 4G speeds. Assume nothing—call your wireless provider and get the full scoop.

You can always rent a phone from **InTouch USA** (☎ 800/872-7626; www.intouchglobal.com), but beware that you'll pay $1 a minute or more for airtime.

Getting **There**

By Plane

Three major airports serve New York City: **John F. Kennedy International Airport** (☎ 718/244-4444) in Queens, is about 15 miles (24km; 1 hr. driving time) from midtown Manhattan; **LaGuardia Airport** (☎ 718/533-3400), also in Queens, is about 8 miles (13km; 30 min.) from Midtown; and **Newark International Airport** (☎ 973/961-6000) in nearby New Jersey, is about 16 miles (26km; 45 min.) from Midtown. Always allow extra time, though, especially during rush hour, peak holiday travel times, and if you're taking a bus. Information on all three is available online at **www.panynj.gov/airports**.

For ease and convenience, your best bet is to stay away from public

transportation when traveling to and from the airport. **Taxis** are a quick and convenient alternative. They're available at designated taxi stands outside the terminals. Fares, whether fixed or metered, do not include bridge and tunnel tolls ($4–$6) or a tip for the cabbie (15%–20% is customary). They do include all passengers in the cab and luggage (from 8pm–6am, a $1 surcharge also applies on New York yellow cabs). **From JFK:** A flat rate of $45 to Manhattan (plus tolls and tip) is charged. **From LaGuardia:** $24 to $30, metered, plus tolls and tip. **From Newark:** The dispatcher for New Jersey taxis gives you a slip of paper with a flat rate ranging from $50 to $75 (toll and tip extra), depending on where you're going in Manhattan. The yellow-cab fare from Manhattan to Newark is the meter amount plus $15 and tolls (about $69–$75, perhaps a few dollars more with tip).

Private car and limousine companies provide convenient 24-hour door-to-door airport transfers. They are a little more expensive than taxis, but they're a good idea if you're traveling at rush hour because they charge flat fees. Call at least 24 hours in advance and a driver will meet you near baggage claim. We use **Dial 7** (☎ 800/777-7777; www.dial7.com) and **Carmel** (☎ 800/922-7635 or 212/666-6666).

AirTrains ($5–$14) are available at Newark and JFK and will certainly save you money, but skip the AirTrain JFK if you have mobility issues, mountains of luggage, or small children. You'll find it easier to rely on a taxi, car service, or shuttle service that can offer you door-to-door transfers. For information, check out **AirTrain JFK** (www.airtrainjfk.com) and **AirTrain Newark** (☎ 888/EWR-INFO; www.airtrainnewark.com). The latter works pretty well, but you will have to change trains at a NJ Transit station to get to Penn Station.

Bus and shuttle services provide a comfortable and less expensive (but usually more time-consuming) option for airport transfers than taxis and car services. The blue vans of **SuperShuttle** (☎ 800/258-3826; www.supershuttle.com) serve all three airports; fares are $15 to $22 per person. **The New York Airport Service** (☎ 718/875-8200; www.nyairportservice.com) buses travel from JFK and LaGuardia to the Port Authority Bus Terminal (42nd St. and Eighth Ave.), Grand Central Terminal (Park Ave. btw. 41st & 42nd sts.), and to select Midtown hotels. One-way fares run between $12 and $15 per person.

By Car

From New Jersey and points west, there are three Hudson River crossings into the city's west side: the **Holland Tunnel** (lower Manhattan), the **Lincoln Tunnel** (Midtown), and the **George Washington Bridge** (upper Manhattan). From upstate New York, the **Tappan Zee Bridge** spans the Hudson. For the east side, the **Brooklyn, Manhattan, Williamsburg,** and **Queensboro bridges,** as well as the **Queens Midtown Tunnel,** cross the East River from Brooklyn and Queens.

Once you arrive in Manhattan, park your car in a garage (expect to pay $20–$45 per day) and leave it there. You really don't need your car for traveling within the city (in fact, it can be more of a hindrance to drive it around the city, especially during rush hours).

By Train

Amtrak (☎ 800/USA-RAIL; www.amtrak.com; book early—as much as 6 months in advance—and travel on weekends for best rates) runs frequent service to New York City's **Penn Station,** on Seventh Avenue

between 31st and 33rd streets, as does **New Jersey Transit** and **Long Island Railroad. Metro-North Railroad** runs out of **Grand Central Station** (p 7). You can easily pick up a taxi, subway, or bus to your hotel from either station.

Getting **Around**

By Subway

Run by the **Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA),** the subway system is the fastest way to travel around New York, especially during rush hours. The subway runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The rush-hour crushes are roughly from 8 to 9:30am and from 5 to 6:30pm on weekdays. The fare is $2.25 (half-price for seniors and those with disabilities), though a fare hike is scheduled to go into effect in 2013; children under 44 inches tall (111cm) ride free. Fares are paid with a **MetroCard,** a magnetically encoded card that debits the fare when swiped through the turnstile (or the fare box on any city bus). MetroCards also allow you free transfers between the bus and subway within a 2-hour period. There are Pay-Per-Ride and Unlimited Ride MetroCards; both can be purchased at any subway station.

Once you're in town, you can stop at the MTA desk at the **Times Square Information Center,** 1560 Broadway, between 46th and 47th streets (where Broadway meets Seventh Ave.) to pick up the latest subway map. (You can also ask for one at any token booth, but they might not always be available.)

By Bus

Less expensive than taxis, with better views than subways—buses would be the perfect alternative if they didn't sometimes get stuck in traffic. They're best for shorter distances or when you're not in a rush. Like the subway fare, bus fare is $2.25 (with a hike expected in 2013), payable with a **MetroCard** or **exact change.** Bus drivers don't make change, and fare boxes don't accept dollar bills or pennies. If you pay with a MetroCard, you can transfer to another bus or to the subway for free within 2 hours. If you pay cash, you must request a **free transfer** slip that allows you to change to an intersecting bus route only (legal transfer points are listed on the transfer paper) within 1 hour of issue. Transfer slips cannot be used to enter the subway.

By Taxi

Yellow **taxi cabs** are licensed by the Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC). Base fare on entering the cab is $2.50. The cost is 40¢ for every ⅕ mile or 40¢ per 2 minutes in stopped or very slow-moving traffic (or for waiting time). There's no extra charge for each passenger or for luggage, but you must pay bridge or tunnel tolls. You'll also pay a 50¢ night surcharge after 8pm and before 6am. A 15% to 20% tip is customary. You can hail a taxi on any street. Never accept a ride from any other car except an official city yellow cab (private livery cars are not allowed to pick up fares on the street).

Fast **Facts**

APARTMENT RENTALS Your best bets are **Manhattan Getaways** (☎ **212/956-2010;** manhattangetaways.com) with a network of unhosted apartments around the city that start at $125 per night; **City Sonnet** (www.citysonnet.com; $125–$700 double) for both hosted and unhosted lodging in apartments and artists' lofts; or **Manhattan Lodgings** (☎ **212/677-7616;** www.manhattanlodgings.com), for B&B and apartment stays.

ATMS (CASHPOINTS) You'll find **automated teller machines (ATMs)** on just about every block in Manhattan, most of which charge a fee to withdraw if you are not a customer of the bank (usually $3, not including any fees your home bank may charge). Some ATMs will allow you to draw U.S. currency against your bank and credit cards. Check with your bank before leaving home and remember that you will need your personal identification number (PIN) to do so.

BABYSITTING The first place to check is with your hotel. Many hotels have babysitting services or will provide you with lists of reliable sitters. If this doesn't pan out, call the **Baby Sitters' Guild** (☎ 212/682-0227; www.babysittersguild.com). The sitters are licensed, insured, and bonded, and can even take your child on outings.

BANKING HOURS Banks tend to be open Monday through Friday from 9am to 6pm and Saturday mornings.

BUSINESS HOURS The city that never sleeps truly doesn't. Most stores stay open to 7pm or later, with drugstores and groceries usually going strong until 9pm, and delis and corner produce markets lasting on into the wee hours. Most stores (except for Midtown and Upper East Side boutiques) are open on Sunday, though they may not open until 11am or noon.

CONSULATES & EMBASSIES All embassies are located in Washington, D.C., though New York has a consulate for virtually every country, and most nations have a mission to the United Nations (also in New York). Call for directory information in Washington, D.C. (☎ 202/555-1212), for the number of your national embassy. The consulate of **Australia** is at 150 E. 42nd St., 34th Floor (☎ 212/351-6500). The consulate of **New Zealand** is at 222 E. 41st St., Ste. 2510 (☎ 212/832-4038; www.nzembassy.com). The consulate of **Canada** is at 1251 Ave. of Americas (☎ 212/596-1628; www.canadianembassy.org). The consulate of **Ireland** is at 345 Park Ave., 17th Floor (☎ 212/319-2555; www.irelandemb.org). The consulate of the **United Kingdom** is at 845 Third Ave. (☎ 212/745-0200; www.britainusa.com).

CREDIT CARDS Credit cards are a safe way to "carry" money, they provide a convenient record of all your expenses, and they generally offer good exchange rates. You can also withdraw cash advances from your credit cards at banks or ATMs by using a predesignated PIN (see "ATMs [Cashpoints]," above).

DENTISTS If you have dental problems, a nationwide referral service known as **1-800-DENTIST** (☎ 800/336-8478) will provide the name of a nearby dentist or clinic.

DINING With a few exceptions at the high end of the scale, dining attire is fairly casual. It's a good idea

to make reservations in advance if you plan to dine between 7 and 9pm.

DOCTORS The **NYU Downtown Hospital** offers physician referrals (☎ 888/698-3362).

ELECTRICITY Like Canada, the United States uses 110 to 120 volts AC (60 cycles), compared to 220 to 240 volts AC (50 cycles) in most of Europe, Australia, and New Zealand. If your small appliances use 220 to 240 volts, you'll need a 110-volt transformer and a plug adapter with two flat parallel pins to operate them here. Downward converters that change 220–240 volts to 110–120 volts are difficult to find in the United States, so bring one with you.

EMERGENCIES Dial ☎ **911** for fire, police, and ambulance. The **Poison Control Center** can be reached at ☎ 800/222-1222 toll-free from any phone. If you encounter serious problems, contact **Traveler's Aid International** (☎ 202/546-1127; www.travelersaid.org) to help direct you to a local branch. This nationwide, nonprofit, social-service organization geared to helping travelers in difficult straits offers services that might include reuniting families separated while traveling, providing food and/or shelter to people stranded without cash, or even emotional counseling.

EVENTS LISTINGS Good sources include ***The New York Times*** (www.nytimes.com) with excellent arts and entertainment coverage, ***Time Out New York*** (http://newyork.timeout.com) with extensive weekly listings, and the weekly ***New York*** magazine (http://nymag.com), a great resource for restaurants, art, and cultural events.

FAMILY TRAVEL The best bet for timely information is ***Time Out New York Kids*** (http://timeoutnewyorkkids.com). Another good resource is the "Weekend" section of Friday's ***New York Times,*** which has a "Spare Times" section dedicated to the week's best kid-friendly activities. For more extensive recommendations, be sure to purchase a copy of ***Frommer's New York City with Kids,*** an entire guidebook dedicated to family visits to the Big Apple.

GAY & LESBIAN TRAVELERS All over Manhattan, but especially in neighborhoods such as the **West Village** and **Chelsea,** shops, services, and restaurants cater to a gay and lesbian clientele. The **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center** is at 208 W. 13th St., between Seventh and Eighth avenues (☎ 212/620-7310; www.gaycenter.org).

HOLIDAYS Banks, government offices, post offices, and many stores, restaurants, and museums are closed on the following legal national holidays: January 1 (New Year's Day), the third Monday in January (Martin Luther King, Jr., Day), the third Monday in February (Presidents' Day, Washington's Birthday), the last Monday in May (Memorial Day), July 4th (Independence Day), the first Monday in September (Labor Day), the second Monday in October (Columbus Day), November 11 (Veterans' Day), the fourth Thursday in November (Thanksgiving Day), and December 25 (Christmas). Also, the Tuesday following the first Monday in November is Election Day and is a federal government holiday in presidential-election years (held every 4 years, and next in 2012).

INSURANCE **Trip-cancellation insurance** helps you get your money back if you have to back out of a trip, if you have to go home early, or if your travel supplier goes bankrupt. Also, although it's not

required of travelers, **health insurance** is highly recommended. The United States does not usually offer free or low-cost medical care to its citizens or visitors. Though lack of health insurance may prevent you from being admitted to a hospital in nonemergencies, don't worry about being left on a street corner to die: The American way is to fix you now and bill the living daylights out of you later.

Lost-luggage insurance is usually provided on domestic flights: Checked baggage is covered up to $2,500 per ticketed passenger. On international flights (including U.S. portions of international trips), baggage is limited to approximately $9 per pound, up to approximately $635 per checked bag.

For information on traveler's insurance, trip cancellation insurance, and medical insurance while traveling, please visit **www.frommers.com/planning**.

INTERNET CENTERS The **Times Square Visitor Information Center,** 1560 Broadway, between 46th and 47th streets (☎ 212/768-1560; open daily 7am–7pm), has computer terminals that you can use to send e-mails courtesy of Yahoo!. Most hotels and many coffee shops have complimentary Wi-Fi access in their public spaces.

LOST PROPERTY **Travelers Aid** (www.travelersaid.org) helps distressed travelers with all kinds of problems, including lost or stolen luggage. There are locations at **JFK Airport** (☎ 718/656-4870), and in **Newark Airport** (☎ 973/623-5052).

MAIL & POSTAGE The main post office is at 421 Eighth Ave. (at 33rd St.); other branches can be found by calling ☎ **800/275-8777** or logging onto **www.usps.gov**. Mail can be sent to you, in your name, c/o General Delivery at the main post office. Most post offices will hold your mail for up to 1 month, and are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm, and Saturday from 9am to 3pm. At press time, domestic postage rates were 28¢ for a postcard and 44¢ for a letter. For international mail, a first-class letter of up to 1 ounce costs 98¢ (75¢ to Canada and 79¢ to Mexico).

MONEY Most businesses and restaurants take plastic, and if they don't, there's an ATM or bank on just about every street corner. (Even cabs take credit cards.)

PASSPORTS Keep a photocopy of your passport with you when you're traveling. If your passport is lost or stolen, having a copy will significantly speed up the reissuing process at your consulate (p 168). Keep your passport and other valuables in your room's safe or in the hotel safe.

PHARMACIES **Duane Reade** (www.duanereade.com) has 24-hour pharmacies in **Midtown** at 224 W. 57th St., at Broadway (☎ 212/541-9708); on the **Upper West Side** at 253 W. 72nd St., between Broadway and West End Avenue (☎ 212/580-0497); and on the **Upper East Side** at 1279 Third Ave., at 74th Street (☎ 212/744-2668), as well as other locations. **CVS** (www.cvs.com) also has 24-hour pharmacies around the city.

SAFETY New York is one of the safest large cities in the United States. But that doesn't mean you should take a stroll through Central Park in the wee hours of the morning, leave unsecured valuables in your car, or flash wads of cash in Times Square. No, no, and no. Avoid being the victim of petty crime by using common sense: Store your wallet in a safe place; wear your purse so it's not snatchable; lock up any valuables in the hotel safe; and avoid

low-trafficked areas, especially at night. The NYPD has a comprehensive **Crime Prevention Tips** list on the NYC.gov website (www.nyc.gov/html/nypd).

SENIOR TRAVELERS New York subway and bus fares are half-price ($1) for people 65 and older. Many museums and sights (and some theaters and performance halls) offer discounted admittance and tickets to seniors, so don't be shy about asking and always bring an ID card. Members of **AARP** (☎ 888/687-2277 or 202/434-2277; www.aarp.org) get discounts on hotels, airfares, and car rentals. Anyone 50 or older can join.

SMOKING Smoking is prohibited on public transportation; in hotel and office building lobbies; in taxis; in bars and restaurants; and in most shops.

SPECTATOR SPORTS You've got your choice of baseball teams, the **Yankees** (☎ 718/293-6000; www.yankees.com) or the **Mets** (☎ 718/507-TIXX; www.mets.com). For basketball there's the **Knicks** (☎ 877/NYK-DUNK; www.nyknicks.com) and the **New York Liberty** (☎ 212/465-6080; www.wnba.com/liberty). The **New York Giants** (☎ 201/935-8222; www.giants.com) and **Jets** (☎ 800/469-JETS; www.newyorkjets.com) cover your football options.

TAXES **Sales tax** is 8.875% on meals, most goods, and some services. **Hotel tax** is 14.25% plus $2 per room per night (including sales tax). **Parking garage tax** is 18.375% (residents get a reduced rate).

TELEPHONE For directory assistance, dial ☎ **411;** for long-distance information, dial 1, then the appropriate area code and 555-1212. Pay phones cost 25¢ for local calls. There are four area codes in the city: two in Manhattan, the original **212** and the newer **646,** and two in the outer boroughs, the original **718** and the newer **347.** The **917** area code is assigned to cellphones, pagers, and the like. Calls between these area codes are local, but you'll have to dial the area code plus the 7 digits, even within your area code.

TICKETS Tickets for concerts at all larger theaters can be purchased through **Ticketmaster** (☎ **212/307-7171;** www.ticketmaster.com). For advance tickets at smaller venues contact **Ticketweb** (☎ **866/468-7619;** www.ticketweb.com). For theater tickets you can buy tickets in advance from **TeleCharge** (☎ **212/239-6200;** www.telecharge.com) or **Ticketmaster** (☎ **212/307-4100;** www.ticketmaster.com). If you want last-minute tickets, see p 147.

TIPPING In hotels, tip **bellhops** at least $1 per bag ($2–$3 if you have a lot of luggage) and tip the **chamber staff** $1 to $2 per day (more if you've left a disaster area for him or her to clean up, or if you're traveling with messy kids and/or pets). Tip the **doorman** or **concierge** only if he or she has provided you with some specific service (like calling a cab). In restaurants, bars, and nightclubs, tip **service staff** 15% to 20% of the check, tip **bartenders** 10% to 15%, and tip **checkroom attendants** $1 per garment. Tipping is not expected in cafeterias and fast-food restaurants. Tip **cab drivers** 15% to 20% of the fare and tip **skycaps** at airports at least $1 per bag ($2–$3 if you have a lot of luggage).

TOILETS Public restrooms are available at the **visitor centers** in Midtown (1560 Broadway, btw. 46th & 47th sts.; and 810 Seventh Ave., btw. 52nd & 53rd sts.). Grand Central Terminal, at 42nd Street between Park and Lexington avenues, also has clean restrooms. Your best bet on the street is

Starbucks or another city java chain—you can't walk more than a few blocks without seeing one. The big **chain bookstores** are good for this, too. On the Lower East Side, stop into the **Lower East Side Visitor Center,** 54 Orchard St., between Hester and Grand streets (open Mon–Fri 9:30am–5:30pm, Sat–Sun 9:30am–4pm).

TOURIST OFFICES **NYC & Company** is the city's official marketing and tourism organization, located at 810 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10019 (☎ 212/484-1200; www.nycgo.com).

TOURS Scholar-led private or group walking tours with award-winning tour operator **Context Travel** (☎ 800/691-6036; www.contexttravel.com) offer in-depth looks at the city's art, architecture, and urban history. **Big Apple Greeter** (☎ 212/669-8159; www.bigapplegreeter.org) provides free neighborhood walking tours. Or try one of the hop-on, hop-off double-decker bus tours offered by **Gray Line** (☎ 800/669-0051; www.graylinenewyork.com).

TRAVELERS WITH DISABILITIES **Hospital Audiences, Inc.** (☎ 212/575-7676; www.hospitalaudiences.org) arranges attendance and provides details about accessibility at cultural institutions as well as cultural events adapted for people with disabilities. Services include the invaluable **HAI Hot Line** (☎ 212/575-7676), which offers accessibility information for hotels, restaurants, attractions, cultural venues, and much more. This nonprofit organization also publishes ***Access for All,*** a guidebook on accessibility, available free of charge on the Hospital Audiences website. Another terrific source for travelers with disabilities who are coming to New York City is **Big Apple Greeter** (☎ 212/669-8159; www.bigapplegreeter.org). Its employees are well versed in accessibility issues. They can provide a resource list of agencies that serve the city's community with disabilities, and sometimes have special discounts available to theater and music performances. Big Apple Greeter even offers one-to-one tours that pair volunteers with visitors with disabilities; they can also introduce you to the public transportation system. Reserve at least 1 week ahead.

Public buses are an inexpensive and easy way to get around New York. All buses' back doors are supposed to be equipped with wheelchair lifts. Buses also "kneel," lowering their front steps for people who have difficulty boarding. Passengers with disabilities pay half-price fares ($1). The **subway** isn't yet fully wheelchair accessible, but a list of about 30 accessible subway stations and a guide to wheelchair-accessible subway itineraries are on the MTA website. Call ☎ **718/596-8585** for bus and subway transit info or go online to **www.mta.nyc.ny.us/nyct** and click on the wheelchair symbol.

A Brief **History of New York**

1524 Giovanni da Verrazano sails into New York Harbor.

1609 Henry Hudson sails up the Hudson River.

1621 The Dutch West India Company begins trading from New York City.

1626 The Dutch pay 60 guilders ($24) to the Lenape Tribe for the island of New Amsterdam.

1664 The Dutch surrender New Amsterdam to the British and the island is renamed after the brother of King Charles II, The Duke of York.

1765 The Sons of Liberty burn the British Governor in effigy.

1776 Independence from England is declared.

1789 The first Congress is held at Federal Hall on Wall Street, and George Washington is inaugurated.

1792 The first stock exchange is established on Wall Street.

1820 New York City is the nation's largest city with a population of 124,000.

1863 The draft riots rage throughout New York; 125 people die, including 11 African Americans who are lynched by mobs of Irish immigrants.

1883 The Brooklyn Bridge opens.

1886 The Statue of Liberty is completed.

1892 Ellis Island opens and begins processing over a million immigrants yearly.

1904 The first subway departs from City Hall.

1920 Babe Ruth joins the New York Yankees.

1929 The stock market crashes.

1931 The Empire State Building opens and is the tallest building in the world.

1939 The New York World's Fair opens in Flushing Meadows, Queens.

1947 The Brooklyn Dodgers sign Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in the Major Leagues.

1957 Elvis Presley performs live in New York on *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

1969 The Gay Rights movement begins with the Stonewall Rebellion in Greenwich Village.

1986 Mets win the World Series, with a little help from Boston's Bill Buckner.

1990 David Dinkins is elected as the first African-American mayor of New York City.

2000 The New York Yankees beat the New York Mets in the first Subway Series in 44 years. New York's population exceeds eight million.

2001 Terrorists use hijacked planes to crash into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, which brings both towers down and kills more than 3,000 people.

2003 Smoking is banned in all restaurants and bars.

2004 Ground breaks on the Freedom Tower, to be built on the site of the World Trade Center.

2008 The New York Giants win the Super Bowl with Eli Manning leading the way.

2009 The New York Yankees win the World Series in their first year in the new Yankee Stadium, giving them 27 World Series championships. The Mets also moved into their new stadium, Citi Field. An amendment to the term limits law greases the way for Michael Bloomberg to win an unprecedented third term for mayor of New York City.

2010 Plans to build an Islamic center blocks from the World Trade Center site spark protests across the country.

2011 Same-sex marriage becomes legal in the state of New York.

New York **Architecture**

New York is famous for its great buildings, but the truth is that the most interesting thing about its architecture is its diversity. From elegant Greek Revival row houses to soaring skyscrapers, the city contains examples of just about every style. Constructed over 300 years, these buildings represent the changing tastes of the city's residents from Colonial times to the present.

Georgian (1700–76)

This style reflects Renaissance ideas made popular in England, and later in the United States, through the publication of books on 16th-century Italian architects. Georgian houses are characterized by a formal arrangement of parts employing a symmetrical composition enriched with classical details, such as columns and pediments.

St. Paul's Chapel (p 16), the only pre-Revolutionary building in Manhattan, is an almost perfect example of the Georgian style, with a pediment, colossal columns, Palladian window, quoins, and balustrade above the roofline.

Federal (1780–1820)

Federal was the first American architectural style. It was an adaptation of a contemporaneous English style called Adamesque, which included ornate, colorful interior decoration. Federal combined Georgian architecture with the delicacy of the French rococo and the classical architecture of Greece and Rome. The overall effect is one of restraint and dignity, and may appear delicate when compared to the more robust Georgian style.

In the **West Village** (p 79), near and along Bedford Street between Christopher and Morton streets, are more original Federal-style houses than anywhere else in Manhattan. House nos. 4 through 10 (1825–34) on Grove Street, just off Bedford, present one of the most authentic groups of late Federal–style houses in America.

A typical Federal exterior.

Greek Revival (1820–60)

The Greek Revolution in the 1820s, in which Greece won its independence from the Turks, recalled to American intellectuals the democracy of ancient Greece and its elegant architecture. At the same time, the War of 1812 diminished American affection for the British influence. With many believing America to be the spiritual successor of Greece, the use of classical Greek forms came to dominate residential, commercial, and government architecture.

Perhaps the city's finest Greek Revival building is **Federal Hall National Memorial** (1834–42; p 63), at 26 Wall St., at Nassau Street. The structure has a Greek temple front, with Doric columns and a simple pediment, resting on a high base, called a plinth, with a steep flight of steps.

Gothic Revival (1830–60)

The term "Gothic Revival" refers to a literary and aesthetic movement of the 1830s and 1840s that occurred in England and the United States. Adherents believed that the wickedness of modern times could benefit with a dose of "goodness" presumed to have been associated with the Christian medieval past. Architecture was chosen as one of the vehicles to bring this message to the people. Some structures had only one or two Gothic features, while others, usually churches, were copies of English Gothic structures.

Trinity Church (p 17), at Broadway and Wall Street (Richard Upjohn, 1846), is one of the most celebrated, authentic Gothic Revival structures in the United States. Here you see all the features of a Gothic church: a steeple, battlements, pointed arches, Gothic tracery, stained-glass windows, flying buttresses (an external bracing system for supporting a roof or vault), and medieval sculptures.

Italianate (1840–80)

The architecture of Italy served as the inspiration for this building style, which could be as picturesque as the Gothic or as restrained as the classical. In New York, the style was used for urban row houses and commercial buildings. The development of cast iron at this time permitted the inexpensive mass production of decorative features that few could have afforded in carved stone. This led to the creation of cast-iron districts in nearly every American city.

New York's **SoHo Cast Iron Historic District** has 26 blocks jammed with cast-iron facades, many in the Italianate manner. The single richest section is **Greene Street** between Houston and Canal streets.

Early Skyscraper (1880–1920)

The invention of the skyscraper can be traced directly to the use of cast iron in the 1840s for storefronts, such as those seen in SoHo. Experimentation with cast and wrought iron in the construction of interior skeletons eventually allowed buildings to rise higher. These buildings were spacious, cost-effective, efficient, and quickly erected—in short, the perfect architectural solution for America's growing downtowns. But solving the technical problems of the skyscraper did not resolve how the buildings should look. Most solutions relied on historical precedents, including decoration reminiscent of the Gothic, Romanesque (a style characterized by the use of rounded arches), or Beaux Arts.

Examples include the **American Surety Company,** at 100 Broadway (Bruce Price, 1895); the triangular **Flatiron Building** (p 38), at Fifth Avenue and 23rd Street (Daniel H. Burnham & Co., 1902), with strong tripartite divisions and Renaissance Revival detail; and the **Woolworth Building** (Cass Gilbert, 1913; p 15), on Broadway at Park Place.

Second Renaissance Revival (1890–1920)

Buildings in this style show a studied formalism. A relative faithfulness to Italian Renaissance precedents of window and doorway treatments distinguishes it from the looser adaptations of the Italianate. Scale and size, in turn, set the Second Renaissance Revival apart from the first, which occurred from 1840 to 1890. The style was used for banks,

swank town houses, government buildings, and private clubs.

New York's Upper East Side has two fine examples of this building type, each exhibiting most of the style's key features: the **Racquet and Tennis Club,** 370 Park Ave. (McKim, Mead & White, 1918), based on the style of an elegant Florentine palazzo; and the **Metropolitan Club,** 1 E. 60th St. (McKim, Mead & White, 1891–94).

Beaux Arts (1890–1920)

This style takes its name from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, where a number of prominent American architects trained, beginning around the mid–19th century. These architects adopted the academic design principles of the Ecole, which emphasized the study of Greek and Roman structures, composition, and symmetry, and the creation of elaborate presentation drawings. Because of the idealized origins and grandiose use of classical forms, the Beaux Arts in America was seen as the ideal style for expressing civic pride. Grandiose compositions, an exuberance of detail, and a variety of stone finishes typify most Beaux Arts structures.

The **New York Public Library** (p 8), at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street (Carrère & Hastings, 1911), is perhaps the best example. Others of note are **Grand Central Terminal** (p 7), at 42nd Street and Park Avenue (Reed & Stem and Warren & Whetmore, 1903–13), and the **U.S. Custom House** (Cass Gilbert, 1907) on Bowling Green between State and Whitehall streets.

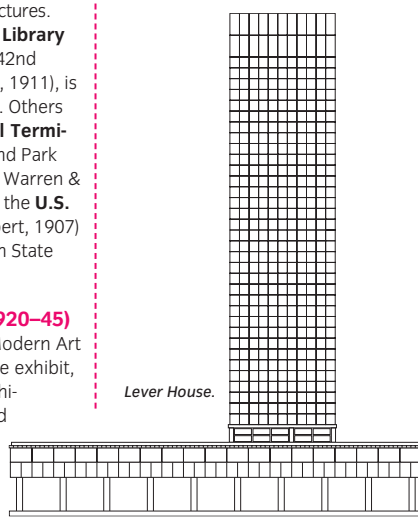
International Style (1920–45)

In 1932, the Museum of Modern Art hosted its first architecture exhibit, titled simply "Modern Architecture." Displays included images of International Style buildings from around the world. The structures all share a stark simplicity and vigorous functionalism, a definite break from historically based, decorative styles. The International Style was popularized in the United States through the teachings and designs of **Ludwig Mies van der Rohe** (1886–1969), a German émigré based in Chicago. Interpretations of the "Miesian" International Style were built in most U.S. cities, as late as 1980.

Two famous examples of this style in New York are the **Seagram Building,** at 375 Park Ave. (Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, 1958), and the **Lever House,** at 390 Park Ave., between 53rd and 54th streets (Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, 1952).

Art Deco (1925–40)

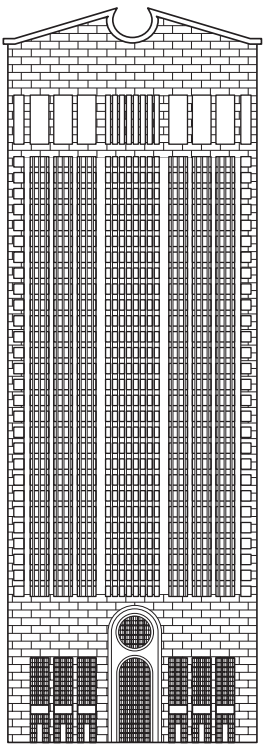
Art Deco is a decorative style that took its name from a Paris exposition in 1925. The jazzy style embodied the idea of modernity. One of the first widely accepted styles not based on historic precedents, it influenced all areas of design from jewelry and household goods to



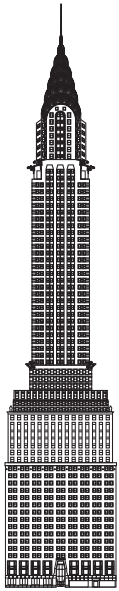
Lever House.

cars, trains, and ocean liners. Art Deco buildings are characterized by a linear, hard edge, or angular composition, often with a vertical emphasis and highlighted with stylized decoration.

Despite the effects of the Depression, several major Art Deco structures were built in New York in the 1930s, often providing crucial jobs. **Rockefeller Center** (Raymond Hood, 1932–40; p 8), includes 30 Rockefeller Plaza, a tour de force of Art Deco style, with a soaring, vertical shaft and aluminum details. The **Chrysler Building**'s needlelike spire (William Allen, 1930; p 39), with zigzag patterns in glass and metal, is a distinctive feature on the city's skyline. The famous **Empire State Building** (Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, 1931; p 7), contains a black- and silver-toned lobby among its many Art Deco features.



The Sony Building.



The Chrysler Building.

Art Moderne (1930–45)

Art Moderne strove for modernity and an artistic expression for the sleekness of the machine age. Unbroken horizontal lines and smooth curves visually distinguish it from Art Deco and give it a streamlined effect. It was popular with movie theaters and was often applied to cars, trains, and boats to suggest the idea of speed.

Radio City Music Hall (p 8), on Sixth Avenue at 50th Street (Edward Durrell Stone and Donald Deskey, 1932), has a sweeping Art Moderne marquee.

Postmodern (1975–90)

Postmodernism burst on the scene in the 1970s with the reintroduction of historical precedents in architecture. With many feeling that the office towers of the previous style were too cold, postmodernists began to incorporate classical details and recognizable forms into their designs—often applied in outrageous proportions.

The **Sony Building,** at 550 Madison Ave. (Philip Johnson/John Burgee, 1984), brings the distinctive shape of a Chippendale cabinet to the New York skyline.

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MIDTOWN TO UPTOWN
MANHATTAN
Hudson River
RIVERSIDE PARK
MORNINGSIDE PARK
Cathedral of St. John the Divine
Lasker Rink & Pool
Harlem Meer
The Great Hill
Conservatory Garden
Museum of the City of New York
North Meadow
East Meadow
The Pool
CENTRAL PARK
Mt. Sinai Hospital
Metropolitan Hospital
EAST HARLEM
JEFFERSON PARK
Manhattan Psychiatric Center
WARDS ISLAND PARK
Foot Bridge
Triborough Bridge
Hell Gate
Tennis Courts
Jewish Museum
Cooper-Hewitt Museum
Guggenheim Museum
Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Reservoir
JOAN OF ARC PARK
Soldiers and Sailors Monument
Gracie Mansion
CARL SCHURZ PARK
Great Lawn
Metropolitan Museum of Art
Children's Museum
Delacorte Theater
Obelisk
Belvedere Castle
Belvedere Lake
Hayden Planetarium
American Museum of Natural History
The Ramble
Conservatory Pond
Whitney Museum of American Art
UPPER WEST SIDE
UPPER EAST SIDE
JOHN JAY PARK
FDR Dr.
The Boathouse
The Lake
The Dakota Building
Strawberry Fields
Bandshell
The Frick Collection
Asia Society Museum
Sheep Meadow
East Green
Hunter College
Cornell Med. Center
West Channel
East Channel
Roosevelt Island Br.
36th Ave.
Roosevelt Island
Tavern on the Green
Lincoln Center
Avery Fisher Hall
Metropolitan Opera House
LINCOLN CENTER
N.Y. State Theater
Wollman Rink
Central Park Zoo
Abigail Adams Smith House Museum
QUEENS BRIDGE PARK
Aerial Tram
Queensboro Bridge
Columbus Circle
Grand Army Plaza
Central Park South
MIDTOWN WEST
Carnegie Hall
Trump Tower
Museum of Modern Art
MIDTOWN EAST
ROOSEVELT ISLAND
QUEENS
Passenger Ship Terminal
DEWITT CLINTON PARK
HELL'S KITCHEN
West Side Hwy
Radio City Music Hall
St. Patrick's Cathedral
ROCKEFELLER CENTER
Saks Fifth Avenue
Intrepid Sea-air-space Museum
UNITED NATIONS
TIMES SQUARE
Grand Central Station
Chrysler Building
Port Authority Bus Terminal
Times Sq
BRYANT PARK
N.Y. Public Library
Grand Central
Queens-Midtown Tunnel
Lincoln Tunnel
To New Jersey
Jacob Javits Convention Center
GARMENT DISTRICT
Macy's
Herald Square
MURRAY HILL
Penn Station
General Post Office
Madison Square Garden
Empire State Bldg.
NYU Medical Center
East River
CHELSEA PARK
MADISON SQUARE PARK
Bellevue Hospital
V.A. Hospital
24TH STREET PARK
CHELSEA
FLATIRON/ GRAMERCY
GRAMERCY PARK
Theodore Roosevelt Birthplace
PETER COOPER VILLAGE
HIGH LINE PARK
UNION SQUARE
STUYVESANT SQUARE
STUYVESANT TOWN
Avenue C
NEW YORK NEW JERSEY
UPPER MANHATTAN
UPTOWN
MIDTOWN
DOWNTOWN
0 1/2 mile
0 0.5 kilometer

Hudson River
East River
CENTRAL PARK
N
103 St. 1
103 St. B,C
103 St. 6
96 St. 1,2,3
96 St. B,C
96 St. 6
86 St. B,C
86 St. 4, 5, 6
86 St. 1
81 St.-Museum of Natural History B,C
79 St. 1
77 St. 6
72 St. 1,2,3
72 St. B,C
68 St. Hunter College 6
Lexington Av. F
66 St. Lincoln Center 1
5 Av. N,R
Lexington Av. N,R
57 St. N,Q,R
57 St. F
59 St. Columbus Circle A,B,C,D,1
7 Av. B,D,E
59 St. 4,5,6
5 Av. E,M
Lexington-3 Av. E,M
49 St. N,R
47-50 Sts. Rockefeller Center B,D,F,M
50 St. 1
50 St. C,E
51 St. 6
Times Sq. N,Q,R,S
42 St. A,C,E
42 St. 1,2,3,7
42 St. B,D,F,M
5 Av. 7
42 St.-Grand Central S,4,5,6,7
34 St. Penn Station A,C,E
34 St. 1,2,3
34 St. B,D,F,M, N,Q,R
33 St. 6
28 St. 1
28 St. N,R
28 St. 6
23 St. C,E
23 St. 1
23 St. F,M
23 St. N,R
23 St. 6
18 St. 1
6 Av. L
14 St.-Union Sq. L,N,Q,R,4,5,6
14 St. A,C,E
14 St. 1,2,3
14 St. F,M
8 St. NYU N,R
3 Av. L
1 Av. L
Astor Pl. 6
Christopher St. Sheridan Sq. 1
W. 4 St.-Washington Sq. A,B,C,D,E,F,M
Broadway-Lafayette St. F,M,B,D
Bleecker St. 6
2 Av. F
Houston St. 1
Prince St. N,R
Spring St. 6
Delancey St. F
Spring St. C,E
Bowery J,Z
Essex St. J,M,Z
Canal St. 1
Canal St. N,Q,R
Canal St. 6
Grand St. B,D
E. Broadway F
Franklin St. 1
Canal St. A,C,E
Canal St. J,Z
Chambers St. A,C
City Hall R
Park Pl. 2,3
Chambers St. J,Z
Chambers St. 1,2,3
Brooklyn Bridge-City Hall 4,5,6
World Trade Center E
Broadway-Nassau St. A,C
Cortlandt St. (closed)
Cortlandt St. R
Wall St. 4,5
Fulton St. J,Z,2,3,4,5
Rector St. 1
Wall St. 2,3
Rector St. R
Broad St. J,Z
Bowling Green 4,5
Whitehall St. South Ferry R
South Ferry 1
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Local stop
All trains stop
Free transfer
Subway Line (circle)
Terminal (square)
Manhattan SUBWAYS